



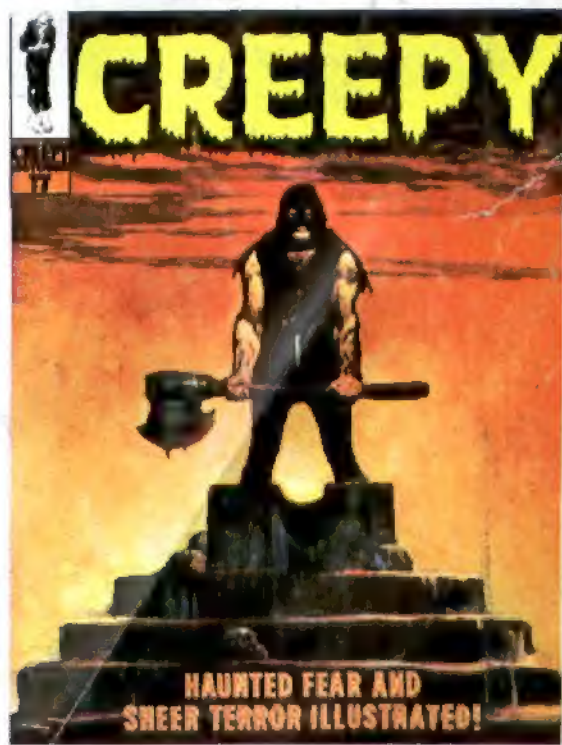
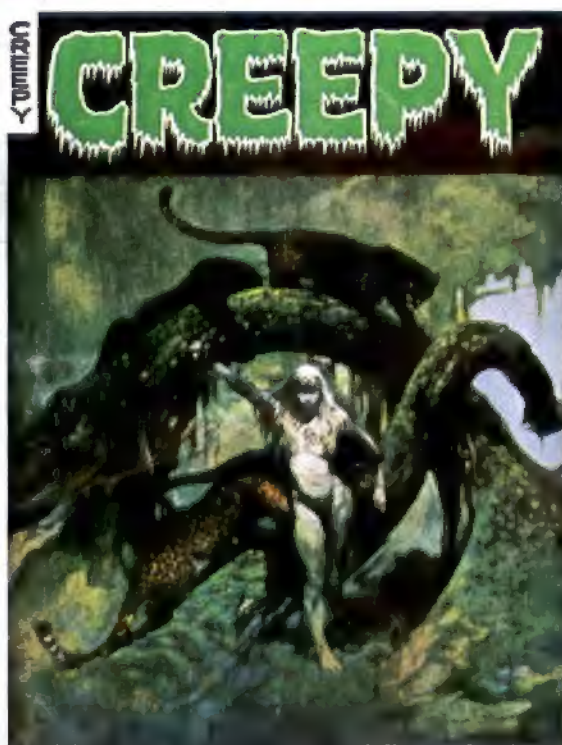
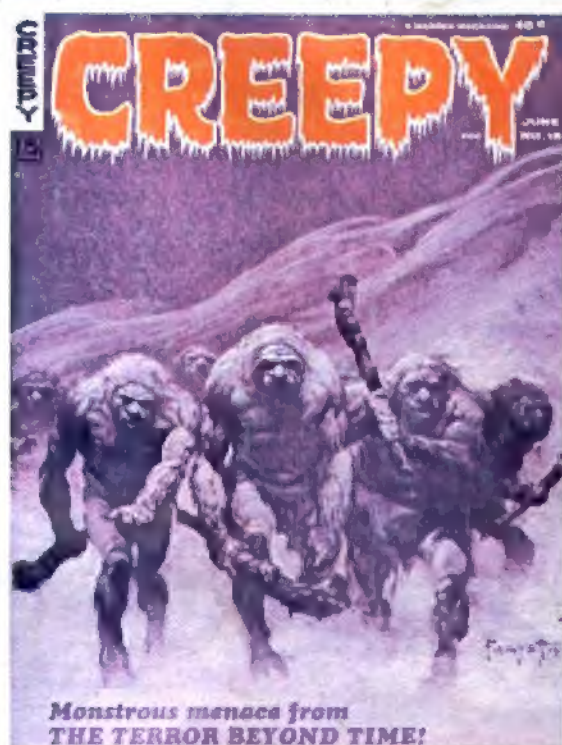
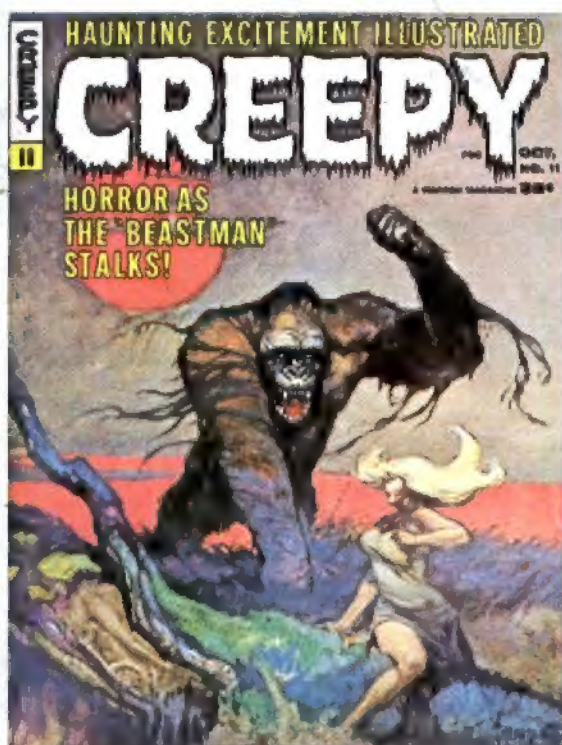
CREEPY

1970 YEARBOOK

THE
WORLD'S #1
ILLUSTRATED
HORROR
MAGAZINE

PDC

**BEWARE!!
FANTASY,
TERROR,
FEAR
&
MYSTERY
AWAIT
YOU
IN
THIS
YEAR
BOOK
EDITION
BY
THE
WORLD'S
GREATEST
ARTISTS
&
WRITERS!**



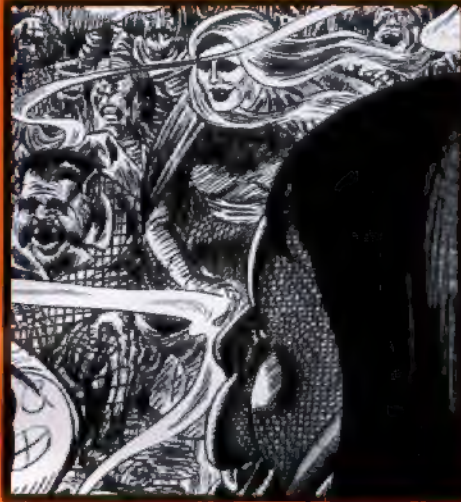
60¢



HELLO AGAIN, LITTLE FIENDS.
WELCOME BACK TO MY DINGY
DUNGEON, AND TO THIS — THE

CREEPY '70 YEARBOOK!

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER AD-
VENTURE INTO THE DEPTHS---





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CREEPY

1970 YEARBOOK

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WONDER WHAT **CREEPY CLASSIC** I'VE **DUG** UP FOR YOU THIS ISSUE? IT'S **ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S** GHOULISH GREAT ABOUT GRAVE ROBBERS TERRIFYINGLY TITLED...

The BODY-SNATCHER!

WHY **TODDY MACFARLANE!**
OUT FOR A STROLL WITH YOUR
NEW ASSISTANT? LOOK SHARP,
LAD! YOU'LL LEARN LOTS FROM
OL' TODDY!

DR. WOLFE MACFARLANE, ANATOMY INSTRUCTOR AT THE EDINBURGH MEDICAL SCHOOL, STIFFENED AND SHRUGGED A GREETING. THEN TUGGING AT HIS NEW ASSISTANT, **FETTES**, HE MOVED QUICKLY ALONG THE COBBLESTONES AS THOUGH TO PUT AS MUCH DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE MAN WHO HAILED HIM AS POSSIBLE...

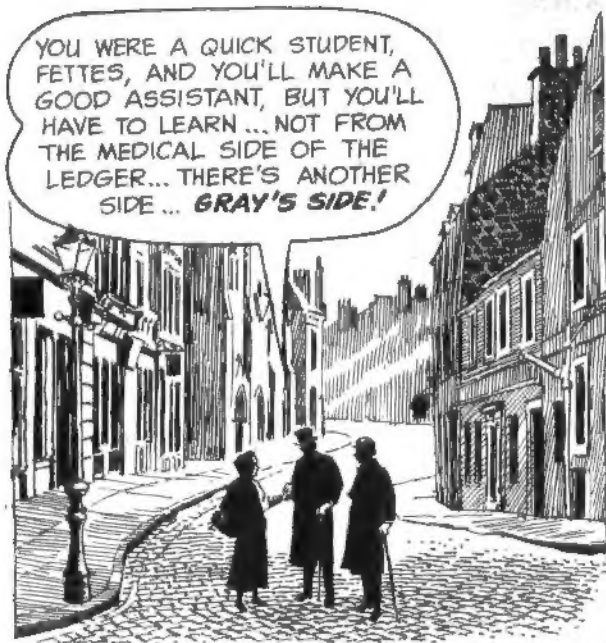
T-THAT MAN... YOU
KNOW HIM,
DOCTOR?

AYE, **FETTES**, I
KNOW HIM! **GRAY...**
BLAST HIS SOUL!
GRAY!

FLOWERS!
TUPPENCE FOR
FLOWERS!



R. CRANDALL



YOU WERE A QUICK STUDENT, FETTES, AND YOU'LL MAKE A GOOD ASSISTANT, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN ... NOT FROM THE MEDICAL SIDE OF THE LEDGER... THERE'S ANOTHER SIDE ... **GRAY'S SIDE!**



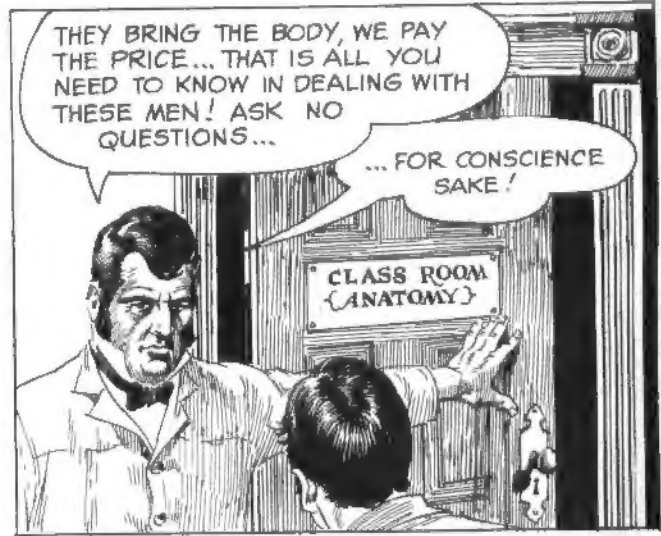
THIS IS A FINE OPPORTUNITY, DOCTOR MACFARLANE! I'M PREPARED TO DO ANYTHING REQUIRED OF ME!

THE PROPER ATTITUDE FOR A SCIENTIST! NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE ENDS WE SEEK ARE GOOD...



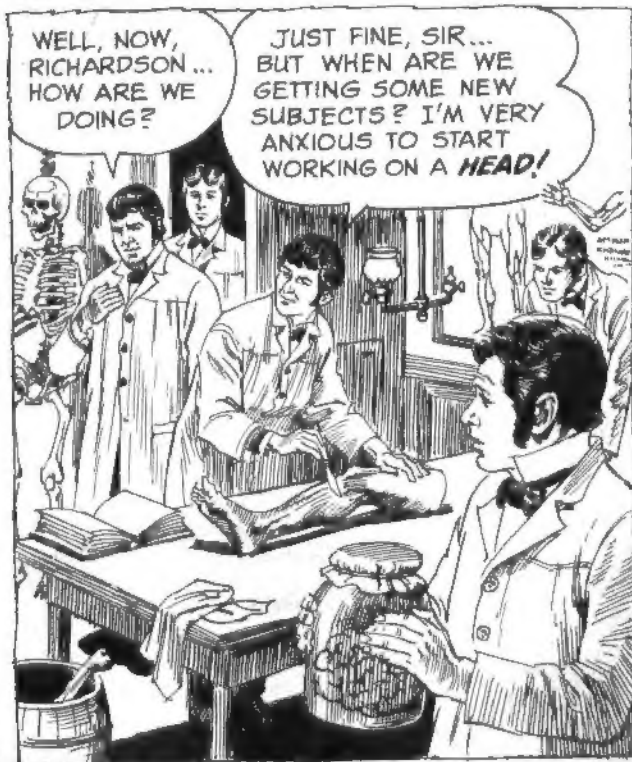
WE HAVE A LARGE AND BUSY CLASS... SUPPLY OF SUBJECTS FOR THEM IS A CONTINUAL PROBLEM! WE CAN PROCURE SOME OF OUR OWN BUT NOT ALL... WE REQUIRE **OUTSIDE HELP**...

Y-YOU MEAN MEN WHO ... ROB GRAVES OR...



THEY BRING THE BODY, WE PAY THE PRICE... THAT IS ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IN DEALING WITH THESE MEN! ASK NO QUESTIONS...

... FOR CONSCIENCE SAKE!



WELL, NOW, RICHARDSON... HOW ARE WE DOING?

JUST FINE, SIR... BUT WHEN ARE WE GETTING SOME NEW SUBJECTS? I'M VERY ANXIOUS TO START WORKING ON A **HEAD!**

AS TIME PASSED, FETTES LEARNED HIS DUTIES WELL... DUTIES THAT SOMETIMES TOOK HIM AND MACFARLANE AFIELD BY NIGHT WHEN SUBJECTS WERE SCARCE AND THE DISSECTING TABLE BARE...



DUTIES THAT CALLED HIM FROM THE WARMTH OF HIS BED IN THE BLACK HOURS BEFORE DAWN TO DEAL WITH UNCLEAN AND DESPERATE MEN WHO TRADED IN CADAVERS

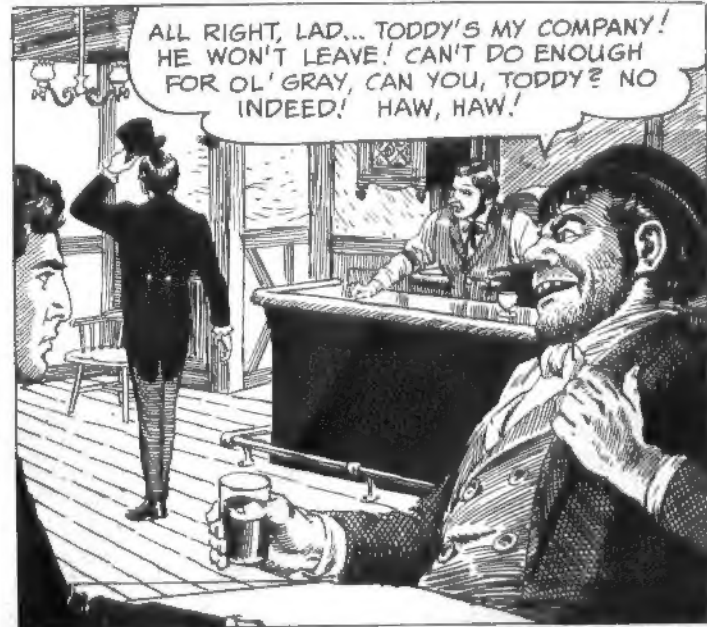
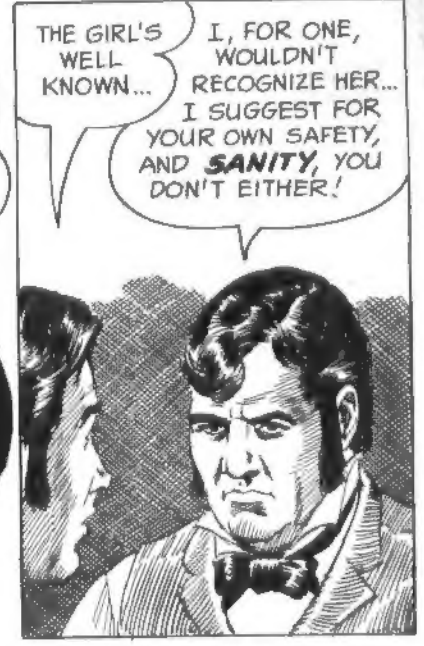
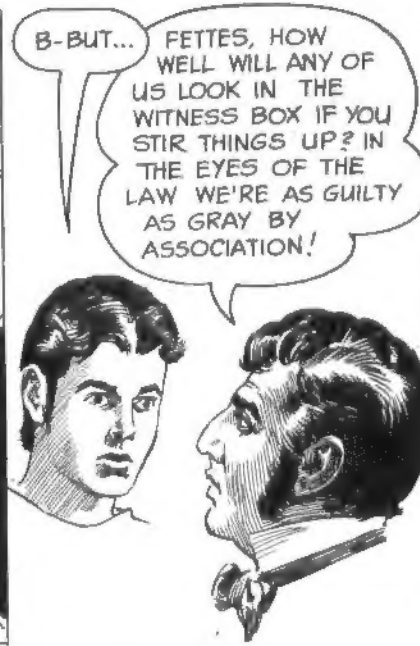
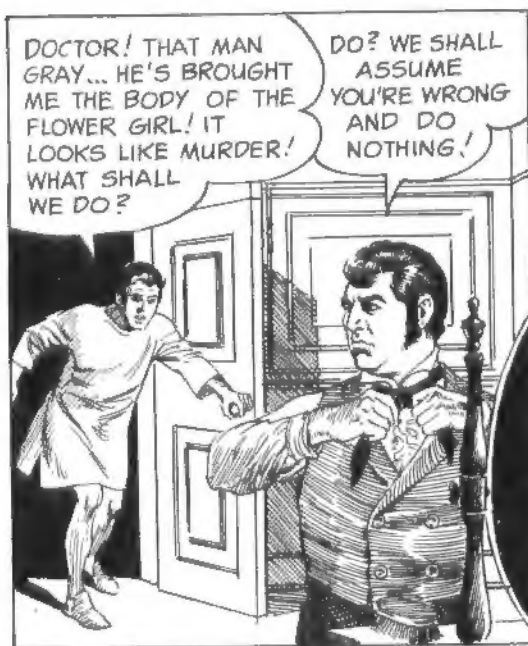


THE MAN GRAY BECAME A FAMILIAR FIGURE AMONG THE PRE-DAWN VISITORS TO THE DISSECTING ROOM... THEN ONE CHILL NOVEMBER MORNING, FETTES CHANCED TO LOOK CLOSELY AT GRAY'S LATEST OFFERING...



GRAY'S EYES BURNED DARKLY INTO FETTES'S... THE YOUNG ASSISTANT'S HEART POUNDED IN FEAR AND WORDS SEEM TO CHOKE IN HIS THROAT...





FETTES LEFT MACFARLANE SQUIRING THE INTOLERABLE GRAY AND MADE FOR HIS BED. AT FOUR IN THE MORNING HE WAS AWAKENED BY THE WELL-KNOWN SIGNAL, BUT UPON DESCENDING TO THE DOOR...

DR. MACFARLANE!

SHUT UP! GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS!



HOW DID YOU MANAGE THIS ONE? HAVE YOU BEEN OUT ALONE?

I THINK, FETTES, YOU HAD BETTER LOOK AT THE FACE... YES, YOU HAD BETTER!



LORD! I-IT'S GRAY! MACFARLANE ... YOU MUST HAVE...

STILL QUESTIONING, FETTES? WHEN WILL YOU LEARN? PAY ME AND ENTER IT IN THE BOOK... WE MUST KEEP THE RECORD STRAIGHT!



YOU-YOU'RE PUTTING MY NECK IN A NOOSE TO OBLIGE YOU!

COME NOW! YOU'RE ALREADY IN IT! THE MOMENT YOU STARTED LOOKING THE OTHER WAY... AS WITH THE FLOWER GIRL! GRAY IS JUST A CONTINUATION... NO REST FOR THE WICKED!



HOW DID I GET THIS INVOLVED? ALL I WANTED WAS TO DO A GOOD JOB!

HOLD YOUR TONGUE AND NO HARM WILL COME! IN LIFE THERE ARE LIONS AND LAMBS... BE A LAMB AND YOU END UP ON THESE TABLES LIKE GRAY AND THE FLOWER GIRL! BETTER STICK WITH ME AND THE LION'S SHARE!



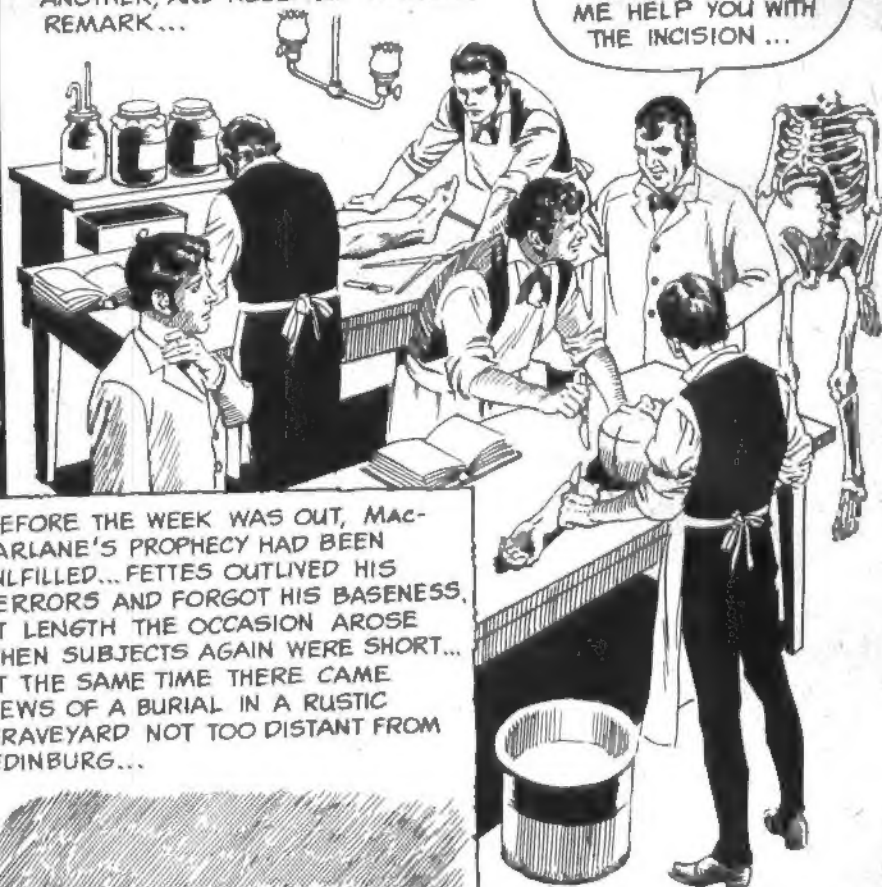
HERE... SEE TO IT THAT RICHARDSON GETS THE HEAD!



LATER AS THE SCHOOL DAY BEGINS...



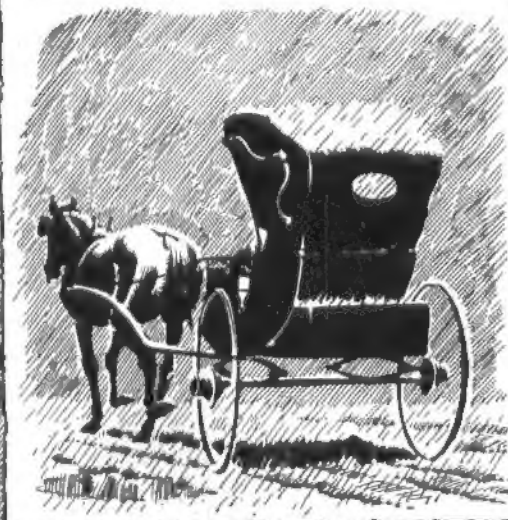
THE MEMBERS OF THE UNFORTUNATE GRAY WERE DEALT OUT TO ONE AND ANOTHER, AND RECEIVED WITHOUT REMARK...



BEFORE THE WEEK WAS OUT, MAC-FARLANE'S PROPHECY HAD BEEN FULFILLED... FETTES OUTLIVED HIS TERRORS AND FORGOT HIS BASENESS. AT LENGTH THE OCCASION AROSE WHEN SUBJECTS AGAIN WERE SHORT... AT THE SAME TIME THERE CAME NEWS OF A BURIAL IN A RUSTIC GRAVEYARD NOT TOO DISTANT FROM EDINBURG...

FINE NIGHT FOR IT THIS IS! WITH THIS ROTTEN RAIN!

THERE IT IS! OVER THERE!



FIRST A LITTLE SOMETHING TO WARM AGAINST THE RAIN...



LET'S GET ON WITH IT... I DON'T FANCY THIS AS A PLACE TO HANG ABOUT!

THEY WERE BOTH EXPERIENCED IN SUCH AFFAIRS AND POWERFUL WITH THE SPADE... THEY HAD BEEN SCARCELY TWENTY MINUTES AT THEIR TASK WHEN REWARDED BY A DULL RATTLE ON THE COFFIN LID...

SMASH THE THING OPEN AND PULL HER OUT!

HOPE SHE ISN'T TOO HEAVY-- MOST FARMER'S WIVES ARE BUILT LIKE COWS!



QUICKLY, FETTES! GET HER IN!



UP WITH IT!

SHE'S NO LIGHTWEIGHT... RAIN MAKES THIS SACK-CLOTH SLIPPERY!



PROPPING THE DREADFUL BUNDLE BETWEEN THEM, THEY PUSHED THE HORSE TO A GOOD PACE, ANXIOUS TO BE IN TOWN BEFORE THE BREAK OF DAWN...



AS THE GIG JUMPED AMONG THE DEEP RUTS, THE THING BETWEEN THEM FELL NOW UPON ONE AND NOW UPON THE OTHER. AT EACH REPETITION OF HORRIBLE CONTACT, EACH REPELLED IT WITH GREATER HASTE... THE PROCESS BEGAN TO TELL UPON THE NERVES OF THE COMPANIONS...



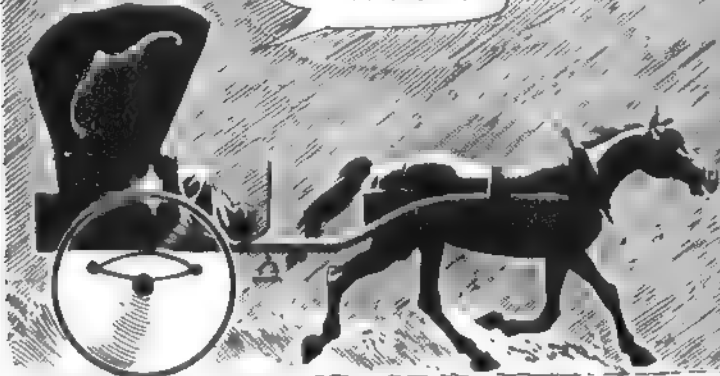
A CREEPING CHILL BEGAN TO POSSESS THEM... THEIR UNNATURAL BURDEN BUMPED FROM SIDE TO SIDE AND THE DRENCHED SACKCLOTH FLAPPED ICILY ABOUT THEIR FACES... FARM DOGS IN THE DISTANCE HOWLED AT THEIR PASSING...

A NAMELESS DREAD WAS SWATHED LIKE THE WET CLOTH ABOUT THE BODY... A FEAR THAT WAS MEANINGLESS, A HORROR OF WHAT COULD NOT BE...

A LIGHT! FOR GOD'S SAKE, LET'S HAVE A LIGHT!

THAT IS NOT A WOMAN!

IT WAS A WOMAN WHEN WE PUT HER IN!



HOLD THAT LAMP... I MUST SEE HER FACE!

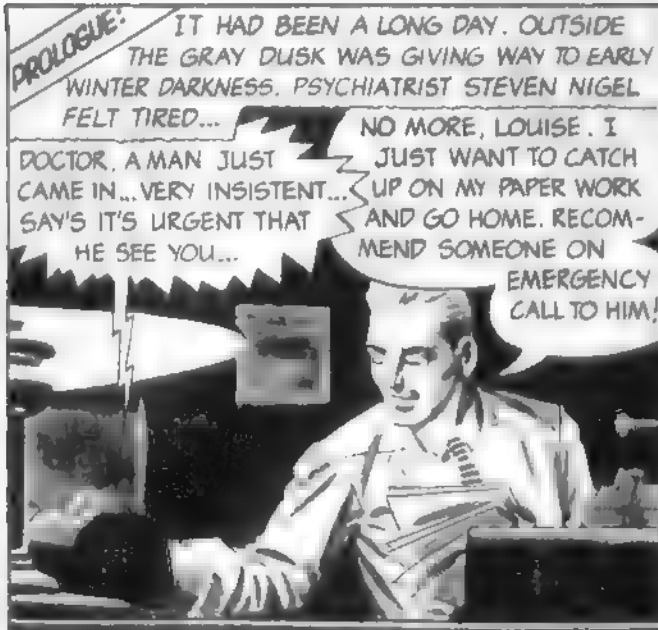


THE LAMP FELL, BROKE, AND WAS EXTINGUISHED... THE HORSE, TERRIFIED BY THE COMMOTION BOUNDED OFF AT A GALLOP, BEARING WITH IT THE OCCUPANTS OF THE GIG AND, AS A FLASH OF LIGHTNING HORRIFYINGLY REVEALED, THE BODY OF THE DEAD AND LONG-DISSECTED GRAY!



HEH, HEH! LOOKS LIKE THAT GIG OF MACFARLANE'S TURNED OUT TO BE THE SURREY WITH THE **CRINGE** ON TOP! THAT'S WHAT THEY GET FOR CUTTING UP WITH GRAY LIKE THAT! NOW STICK AROUND AND **DISSECT** MY NEXT PIECE OF **FIENDISH FICTION!**







WELL KIDDIES, IF YOU THINK THAT'S SOMETHING TO HOWL ABOUT, WAIT TILL YOU RIP THROUGH THE REST OF THIS **LYCANTHROPIC LEGEND** BOILING UP FROM THE ...

BLOOD OF THE WEREWOLF!

I THINK YOU'D BETTER START AT THE BEGINNING. TELL ME EVERYTHING.

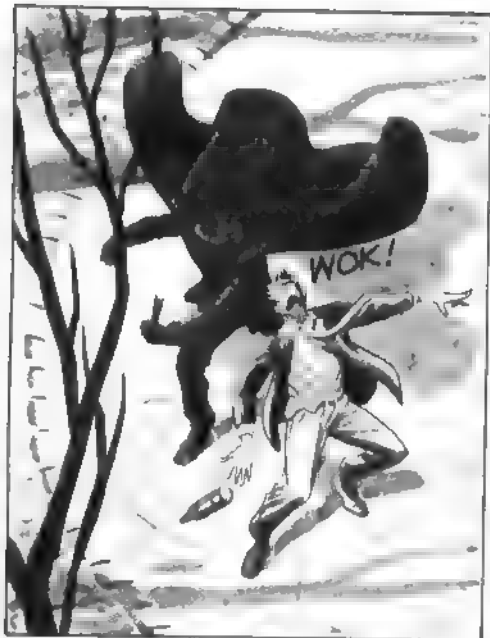


YEAH, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT... MAYBE I SHOULD'VE TOLD SOMEONE A LONG TIME AGO! MY NAME'S CARL HOLT AN' THE WHOLE THING STARTED WHEN I WAS FIRED FROM MY JOB...



...THAT SENT ME ON A BENDER THAT DIDN'T END TILL I CLOSED HALF THE BARS IN TOWN. WITH NO PLACE TO GO BUT HOME, I DECIDED TO TAKE A SHORT-CUT THROUGH THE PARK...





FOR A LONG TIME I FLOATED IN LIMBO, DISTANTLY CONSCIOUS OF THINGS GOING ON AROUND ME... A FIGURE IN BLACK STANDING OVER ME.. BEING DRAGGED INTO A CAR, LOOKING UP AT AN OLD BROWNSTONE...



...THEN EVERY-
THING CRYSTAL-
IZED AND I
THINK I
SCREAMED!

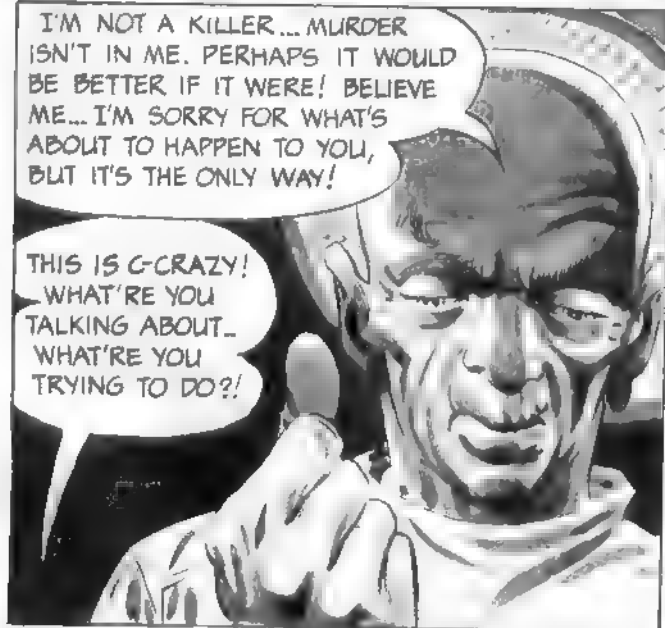
GOOD! I FEARED I MIGHT HAVE HIT YOU TOO HARD...
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND IT'S NOT MY INTENTION TO HURT
YOU IF AT ALL POSSIBLE!

W-WHAT... THIS IS SOME
KIND OF... DOCTORS...
OFFICE ...



I'M NOT A KILLER... MURDER
ISN'T IN ME. PERHAPS IT WOULD
BE BETTER IF IT WERE! BELIEVE
ME... I'M SORRY FOR WHAT'S
ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO YOU,
BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY!

THIS IS G-CRAZY!
WHAT'RE YOU
TALKING ABOUT...
WHAT'RE YOU
TRYING TO DO?!



THEN I NOTICED THE NOISES... HORRIBLE RASPING
GRUNTS AND CRIES...

TH... THAT SOUND!
LIKE AN... ANIMAL
OF SOME SORT...

UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'RE NOT
WRONG! TWIST YOUR HEAD TO
RIGHT... IT'S ONLY FAIR YOU
MEET MY SON!





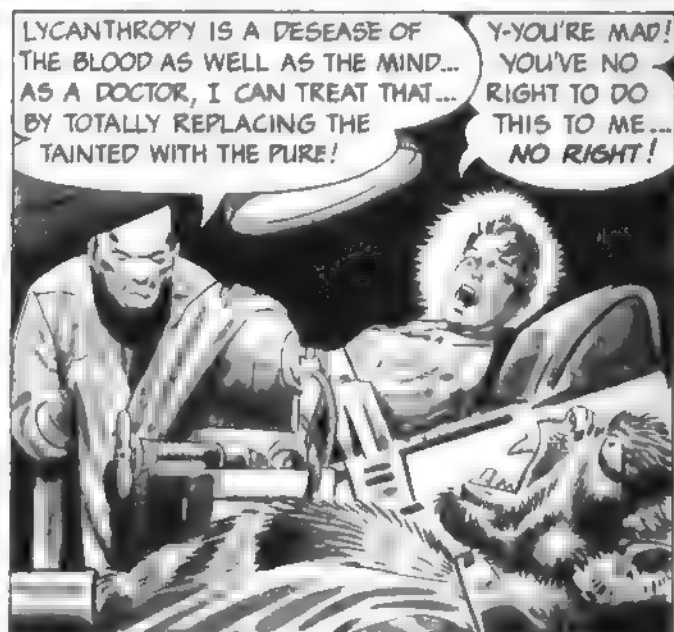
MY GOD!
IT'S...
IT'S A...

YES, MY SON
IS A
WEREWOLF!



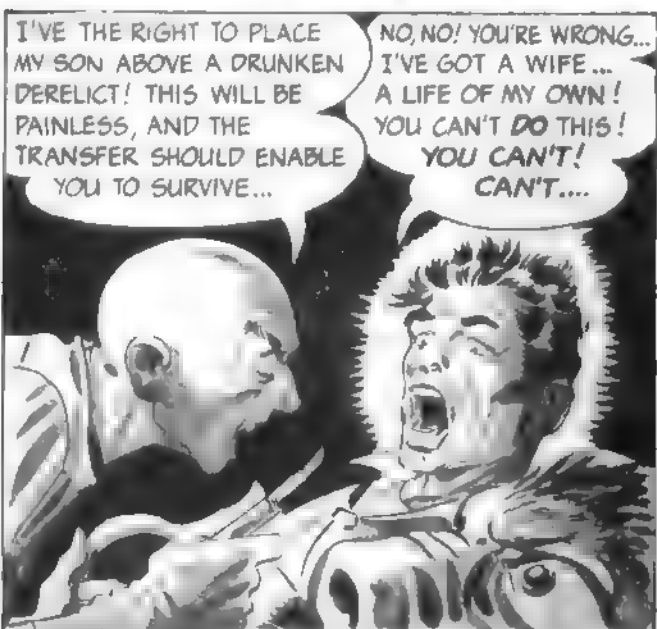
NOW DO YOU KNOW MY BURDEN?
A BRILLIANT DEVOTED BOY...EVERY-
THING A PARENT COULD
ASK! YET UNDER THE
CURSED RAYS OF THE
FULL MOON, HE BE-
COMES A BLOOD-
LUSTING **BEAST!**

YOU CAN UNDER-
STAND HOW MUCH I
WANT TO SAVE HIM...



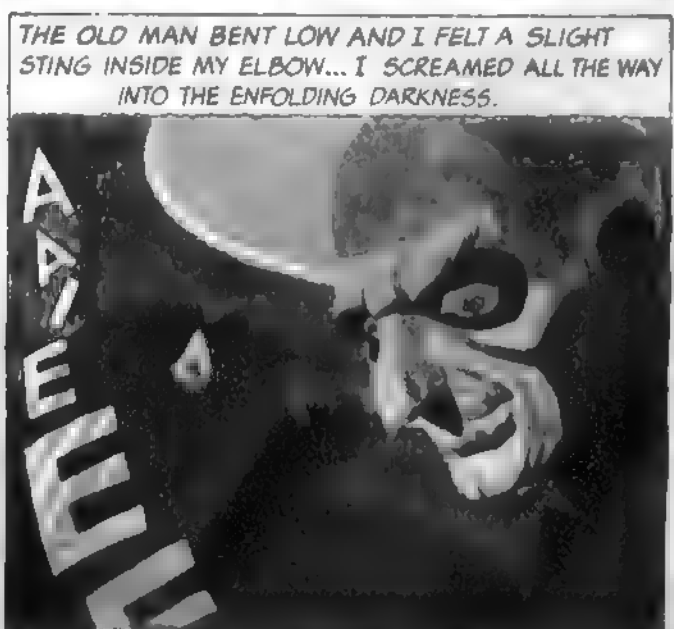
LYCANTHROPY IS A DISEASE OF
THE BLOOD AS WELL AS THE MIND...
AS A DOCTOR, I CAN TREAT THAT...
BY TOTALLY REPLACING THE
TAINTED WITH THE PURE!

Y-YOU'RE MAD!
YOU'VE NO
RIGHT TO DO
THIS TO ME...
NO RIGHT!



I'VE THE RIGHT TO PLACE
MY SON ABOVE A DRUNKEN
DERELICT! THIS WILL BE
PAINLESS, AND THE
TRANSFER SHOULD ENABLE
YOU TO SURVIVE...

NO, NO! YOU'RE WRONG...
I'VE GOT A WIFE...
A LIFE OF MY OWN!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
**YOU CAN'T!
CAN'T....**



THE OLD MAN BENT LOW AND I FELT A SLIGHT
STING INSIDE MY ELBOW... I SCREAMED ALL THE WAY
INTO THE ENFOLDING DARKNESS.

I AWOKE BACK IN THE PARK, IN THE SPOT WHERE I'D FALLEN THE NIGHT BEFORE IN THE COLD MORNING LIGHT, IT ALL COULD HAVE BEEN AN ALCOHOLIC DELUSION...EVEN SO, I RAN ALL THE WAY HOME.



ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME CRAZY? WHAT GOT INTO YOU? I'VE CALLED THE POLICE... EVERYWHERE! DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY CARL... ANYTHING?

THERE WAS NOTHING...IT WAS ALL IMPOSSIBLE! HOW COULD I EXPECT OTHERS TO BELIEVE WHEN I COULDN'T BE SURE MYSELF...

DARLING, WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'VE BEEN LIKE A ZOMBIE SINCE THAT NIGHT...DON'T WORRY SO! ANOTHER JOB'LL TURN UP...

CARL, YOU LISTENING? CARL? WHY DO YOU KEEP STARING LIKE THAT?!



THEN SLOWLY, LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE CHANGES BEGAN...

MY EYEBROWS WEREN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS! THEY'RE GETTING BUSHIER...GROWING TOGETHER!



HAIR ON MY PALMS! ANOTHER OF THE SIGNS... IT WASN'T A DREAM! THE OLD MAN DID IT... I KNOW HE DID IT... I KNOW IT!



CARL, WILL YOU SIT DOWN YOU'VE BEEN LIKE A CAGED ANIMAL ALL EVENING! PACING THE FLOOR, RUNNING OVER TO THE WINDOW PACING SOME MORE... OVER AND OVER...



CARL, DO YOU HEAR ME?

CARL!



I RUSHED INTO THE NIGHT RUNNING AS FAR AND AS FAST AS I COULD UNTIL AT LAST I STUMBLED AND FELL WRITHING TO THE GROUND, THE RAYS OF THE FULL MOON SCORCHING ME LIKE THE DESERT SUN, MAKING THE VERY BLOOD WITHIN ME BOIL LIKE A SURGING VOLCANO...



THAT NIGHT I BECAME THE SAME BLOODLUSTING CARNAL MAN-HUNTER THAT THE OLD DOCTOR'S SON HAD ONCE BEEN. FOR THE FIRST TIME I STALKED MY PREY AND RAN IT TO EARTH...



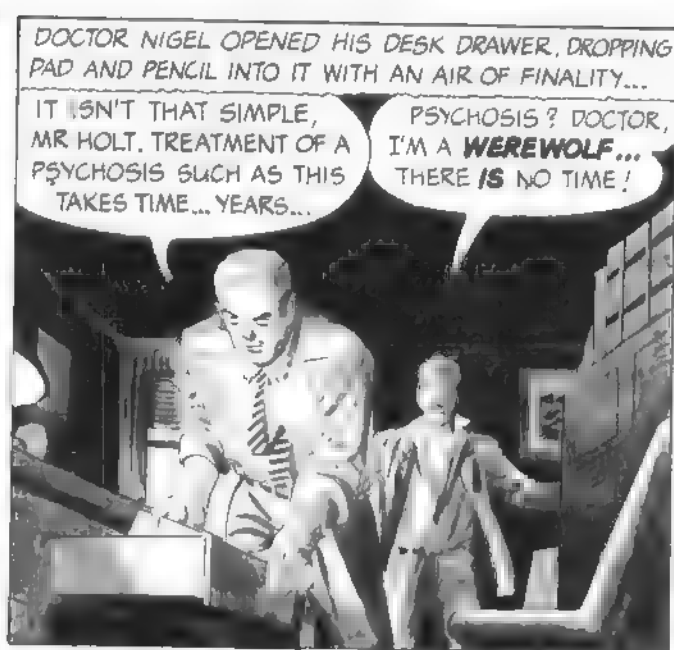
...AS I WOULD DO IN THE FUTURE, TIME AND TIME AGAIN!



I NEVER WENT BACK HOME. FOR MY WIFE'S SAKE **I COULDN'T!** FOR MONTHS NOW, IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS...

I KEEP LOOKING FOR BROWN-STONES WITH DOCTORS OFFICES, BURSTING IN ON THEM... JUST LIKE I DID TODAY... HOPING TO FIND THAT OLD FIEND WHO DID THIS TO ME!







NIGEL CONTINUED FIRING UNTIL THE REVOLVER CLICKED ON EMPTY CHAMBERS, CONTINUED FIRING THE REVOLVER THAT HAD BEEN IN HIS DESK DRAWER SINCE FIRST HEARING OF THE FULL MOON MURDERS...



THE BEAST-THING THAT HAD BEEN CARL HOLT SLUMPED STIFFLY OVER THE DESK AND MELTED INTO HUMAN FORM THE DOOR BURST OPEN AND THE HUB-BUB OF SPEC-TATORS FROM ADJOIN-ING OFFICES REACHED IN...

DOCTOR NIGEL, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I'VE SENT FOR THE POLICE!

H-HE WAS A **MANIAC!** TRIED TO KILL ME! I FIRED JUST IN TIME...



WITH THE SOUND OF SIRENS, THE CROWD OF THE CURIOUS DISPERSED, EXCEPT FOR ONE MAN...

EVERYTHING OKAY, STEVEN?

POLICE MAY BE A LITTLE CURIOUS ABOUT THE SILVER BULLETS, THAT'S ALL. JUST CHANCE THE WAY HE BARGED IN HERE. LUCKY HE DIDN'T PICK YOUR OFFICE TO ENTER FIRST...

...RIGHT, DAD?

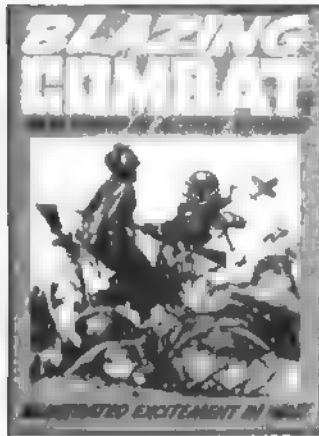


DON'T FEEL TOO SORRY FOR POOR OL' CARL FELLOW FIENDS, LOOK AT ALL THAT SILVER HE COLLECTED... AND THE ONLY THING DOCTOR NIGEL GOT OUT OF IT WAS TIRED BLOOD! NOW, WHY NOT WAKE UP YOUR BLOOD WITH MY NEXT LITTLE TERROR-TRANSFUSION?





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SWORD AND SORCERY TIME, FEAR FANATICS... LET'S TAKE A PULSATING PEEK JUST BEYOND RECORDED HISTORY TO A WORLD STILL PRIMITIVE BENEATH THE FIRST VENEER OF CIVILIZATION, A WORLD IN WHICH MOST ROADS LEAD INTO THE DARK AND GLOOMY UNKNOWN, THROUGH HOVERING TERRORS, TO THE PLACE...

WHERE SORCERY LIVES!



THE DULL ACHES OF HIS SCALP WOUND WAS LONG ABSORBED INTO THE THROBBING NEED FOR VENGEANCE AS STEP BY STEP GARTH NEARED HIS GOAL...

THE LANDSCAPE GROWS MISTY THE MOUNTAINS DARK... THE STRONGHOLD OF SALAMANDER CANNOT BE FAR!



WHO DARES? WHAT HEEDLESS BARBARIAN DARES INVADE THE DOMAIN OF **SALAMANDER THE SORCERER?** WHO LOVES LIFE SO LITTLE?

YOU KNOW ME, NECROMANCER, AND YOU KNOW WHY I'VE COME!



DID YOU THINK I WAS DESTROYED ALONG WITH THE REST OF MY VILLAGE? DID YOU THINK YOUR DARK POWERS SO GREAT, SO DESTRUCTIVE, ONE STRONG SWORD COULDN'T SURVIVE THE ATTACK?

STILL PROUD, EH GARTH? HAVING FOUND ME, WHAT WILL YOU DO...?



AT THE CONJURER'S GLOATING WORDS, THE SHIMMERING IMAGE HE PRESENTED BROADENED, AND TO GARTH'S HORROR HE SAW...



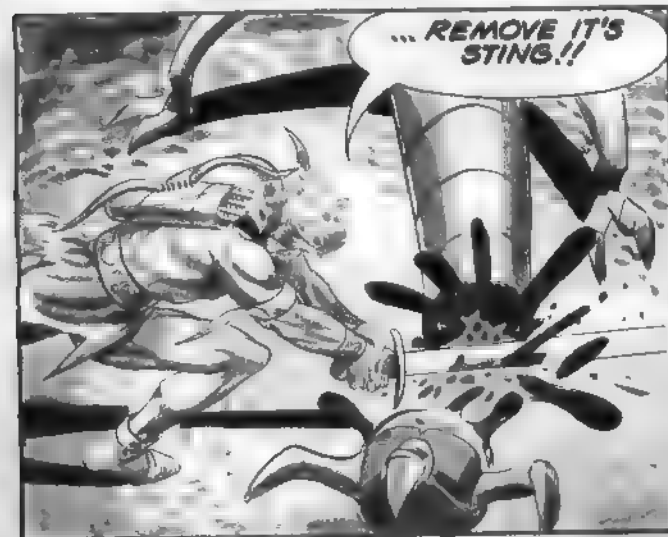
SWORD FLAILING IN HELPLESS RAGE, GARTH LEAPED AT THE VANISHING IMAGE TO NO AVAIL! THEN FROM BEHIND, CAME AN OMINOUS STIRRING...



...AND ALL THE AGILITY IN HIS SEASONED WARRIOR'S BODY WAS SORELY TESTED BY THE VENOMOUS WHIPLASH SWIRLING ABOUT HIM!



HARD PRESSED, GARTH SIDE-STEPPED THE ATTACKING MONSTER AND SWUNG WITH ALL HIS MIGHT TO MEET THE THRASHING TAIL, GAMBLING TO STRIKE A JOINT...



IT'S HIDE IS TOUGHER THAN THE FINEST ARMOR! MY STROKES GLANCE OFF LIKE LOVETAPS! BUT IF I CAN'T SEVER THE HEAD PERHAPS I CAN AT LEAST...



SWORD DRIPPING BLOOD AND VENOM, GARTH WAVED IT IN THE MISTY AIR ABOUT HIM...





IMPUDENT SAVAGE! HIS
BRAIN IS IN HIS SWORD ARM!
PRESS ON, FOOL... YOU'VE
HAD BUT A TASTE OF
SALAMAND'S WIZARDRY!



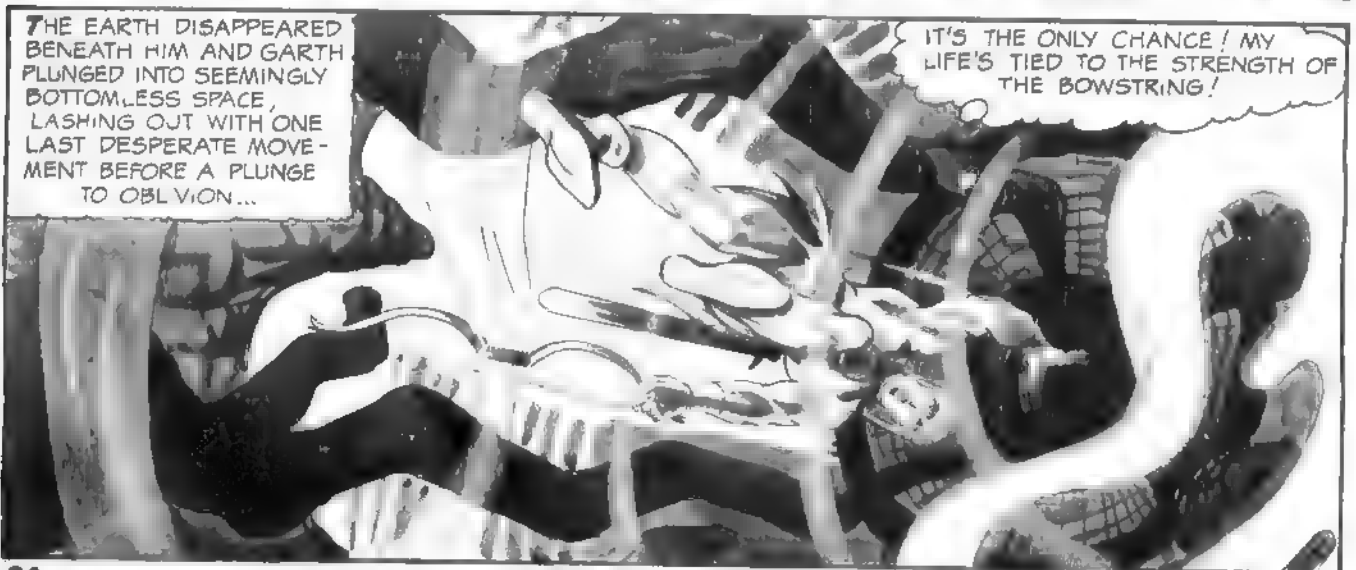
YOU MARCH TOO QUICKLY, TOO CARE-
LESSLY, GARTH... A STIRRING OF THESE
WATERS WILL SHOW YOU THE ERROR
OF SUCH RASHNESS...



CURSE SALAMAND
AND HIS LAND!
THE VERY ATMOS-
PHERE HANGS
HEAVY WITH EVIL...
THE FOG ENVELOPES
LIKE A CLOAK!
IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL
WHERE THE
NEXT STEP...

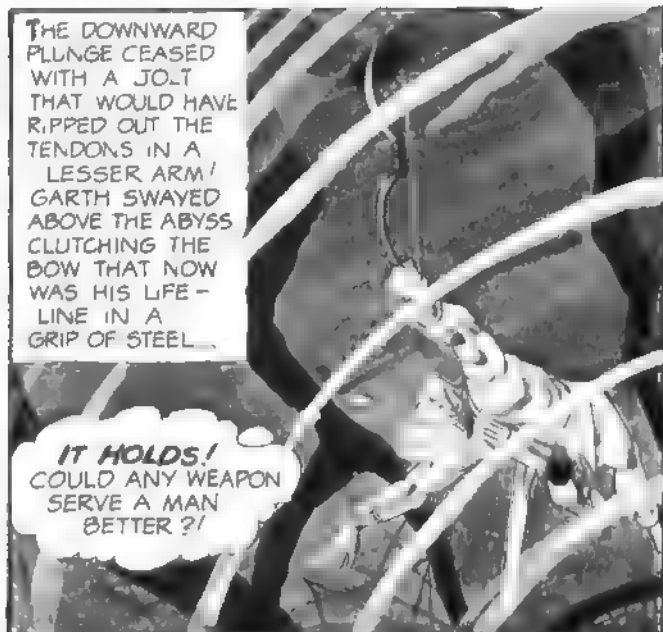


...LEADS!!



THE EARTH DISAPPEARED
BENEATH HIM AND GARTH
PLUNGED INTO SEEMINGLY
BOTTOMLESS SPACE,
LASHING OUT WITH ONE
LAST DESPERATE MOVE-
MENT BEFORE A PLUNGE
TO OBLIVION...

IT'S THE ONLY CHANCE! MY
LIFE'S TIED TO THE STRENGTH OF
THE BOWSTRING!



THE DOWNWARD PLUNGE CEASED WITH A JOLT THAT WOULD HAVE RIPPED OUT THE TENDONS IN A LESSER ARM! GARTH SWAYED ABOVE THE ABYSS CLUTCHING THE BOW THAT NOW WAS HIS LIFE-LINE IN A GRIP OF STEEL...

IT HOLDS!
COULD ANY WEAPON
SERVE A MAN
BETTER?!



HE CLIMBS UP FROM THE VERY BRINK OF DESTRUCTION! I'LL TOY NO MORE! LET GARTH FACE THE WINGED GUARDIAN OF SALAMAND'S STRONGHOLD!



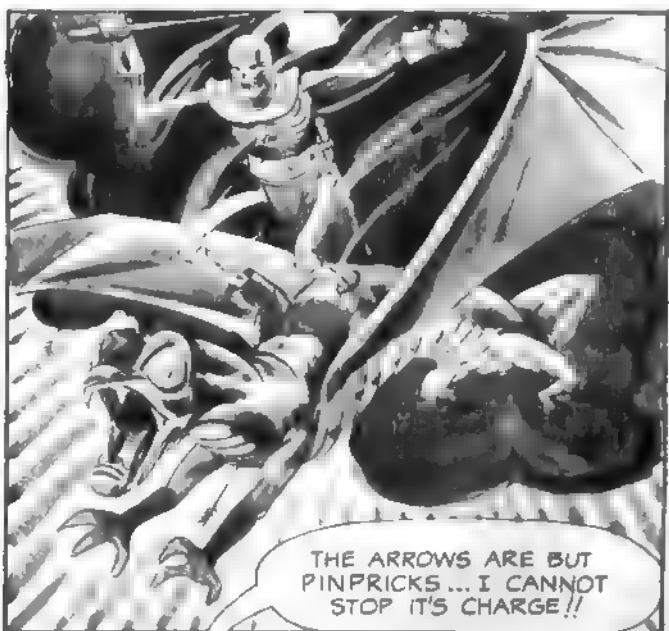
CHEST HEAVING, MUSCLES ACHING, GARTH PAUSED IN HIS ASSAULT, WHEN THE WIND BROUGHT TERRIBLE SOUNDS TO MAKE EVERY NERVE ENDING TINGLE... THE LOW MOANING WAIL OF A DIVING OBJECT AND THE LEATHERY BEAT OF UNEARTHLY WINGS!

SALAMAND HURLS HIS GENERAL TO THE FIELD! THE SAME GRIM REAPER THAT HARVESTED DEATH TO MY VILLAGE!



BODILY HURT WAS SUBMERGED AS GARTH BECAME A MACHINE OF COMBAT, SENDING SHAFT AFTER SHAFT SKYWARD TO THE ON-RUSHING HORROR!

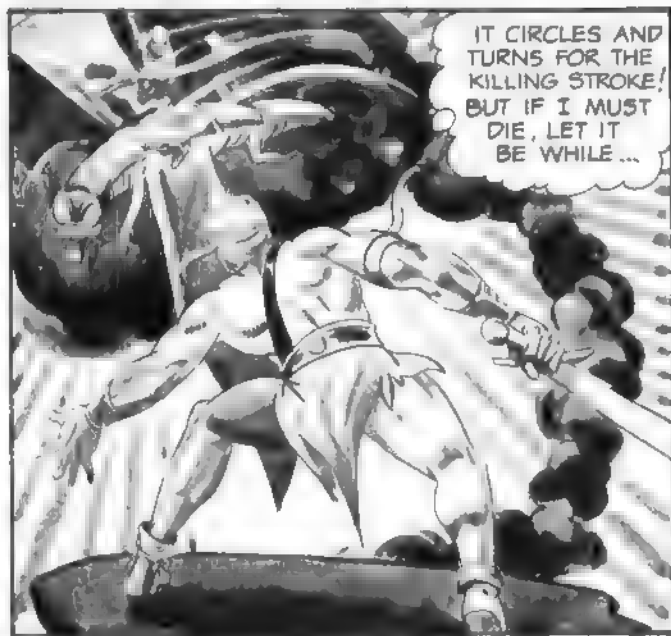
HELL'S OWN MONSTER!
IF I DO NOTHING ELSE, LET ME LIVE TO SLAY YOU!



THE ARROWS ARE BUT PINPRICKS... I CANNOT STOP IT'S CHARGE!!



FOR THE SECOND TIME THE DEADLY AXE BLADE SLICED PAST GARTH, SO CLOSE AS TO SEND HAIR ON THE BACK OF HIS HEAD FLYING, AS WITH A WILD CRY, HE LEAPED...



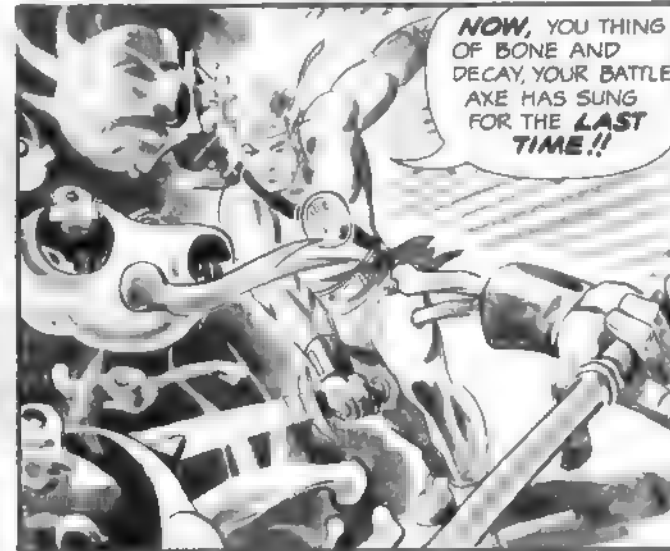
THE WINGED MONSTER SHOT WILDLY THROUGH THE AIR, ITS UGLY HEAD TURNED TO BITE AT THE UNWELCOMED RIDER, WHOSE FREE HAND THRUST FLASHING STEEL AT THE SCALY NECK...



BLACK BLOOD SPURTED AS THE SWORD WENT HOME AND WITH AN EAR SHATTERING SCREECH, THE CREATURE PLUMMETED DOWNWARD...



PUSHING HIS RESERVE OF STRENGTH TO IT'S VERY LIMIT, GARTH LEAPED FORWARD AS THE SKELETAL MASTER OF THE DEATH STEED BEGAN TO RISE...





SALAMAND! YOUR OWN EVIL HAS DELIVERED ME TO YOUR DOORSTEP... NOW WILL YOU FACE ME?!



SORCERER! I'M HERE TO KILL YOU, SORCERER... SHOW YOURSELF!

GARTH STUMBLED INTO THE WIZARD'S INNER-CHAMBER TO A NUMBING SIGHT.....



TANYA! HER FACE HAS THE PALLOR OF DEATH... HER BROW LIKE ICE...THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING I CAN DO!

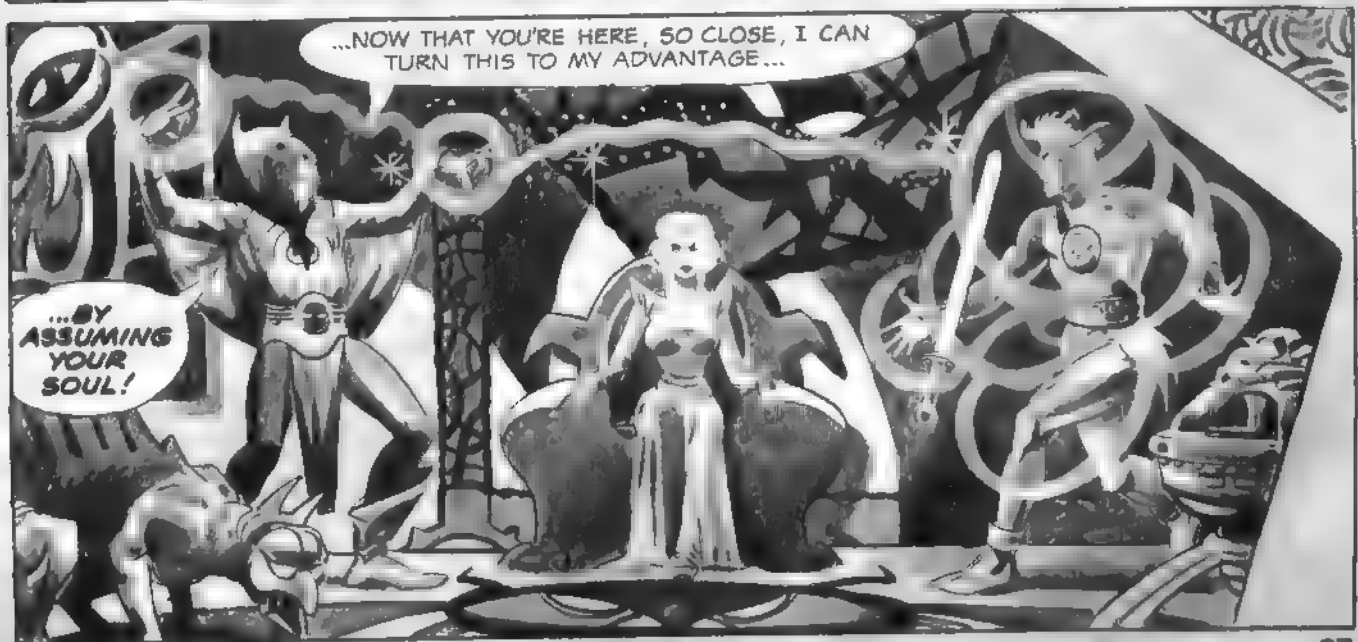
YOU'VE ALREADY DONE ENOUGH, GARTH... IN FACT, YOU'VE DONE EXACTLY AS I PLANNED!



SALAMAND!

YOU'VE EXHAUSTED YOURSELF FIGHTING MY TRAPS...NOW YOU'LL SERVE MY PURPOSE! MY TRANCE BINDS TANYA'S BODY BUT I CAN'T GAIN HER LOVE... IT'S TOO STRONG FOR YOU!

YOUR DEATH WOULD ONLY HAVE MADE HER FEELINGS STRONGER.



...NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, SO CLOSE, I CAN TURN THIS TO MY ADVANTAGE...

...BY ASSUMING YOUR SOUL!



HER LOVE WILL TRANSFER TO THAT PART OF YOU SHE SENSES IN ME!



IT'S USELESS TO RESIST, YOU'RE TOO EXHAUSTED... YOUR WILL CAN NEVER OPPOSE ME!



STOP FIGHTING, FOOL! YOU'LL ONLY KNOW THE PAIN OF...



...THE FULL FORCE OF MY WILL!!

DARKNESS SURROUNDED GARTH AND HE FELT HIMSELF SINKING INTO OBLIVION...AS THOUGH HIS VERY ESSENCE WAS BEING TORN FROM HIS BODY...WHEN...

LIFE SEEMED TO FLOOD BACK INTO HIS WEAKENED BODY, HIS BLURRED VISION SLOWLY CLEARED...



TANYA! BUT YOU WERE HELD BY SALAMAND'S TRANCE... HOW...?

HE BOUND ME THROUGH HIS **WILL**, GARTH...WHEN HE SUMMONED HIS FULL POWER TO DEFEAT YOU....




...MY TRANCE WAS BROKEN AND I WAS FREE TO ACT!

IN FERVOR OF HIS SCHEMING, HE WROUGHT HIS OWN DEFEAT... A FITTING EPITAPH FOR SUCH AS **SALAMAND!**

AS THE SAYING GOES, GHOULS, "WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY"... FOR SALAMAND IT TURNED OUT TO BE THE HARD WAY! NOW WHY DON'T YOU WILL YOUR WAY INTO MY NEXT BIT OF SORCERY!






FOLLOW ME, FEAR FANCIERS...WE'RE GOING DEEP WITHIN AN ABANDONED MINESHAFT IN THE SOUTHWEST...ALTHOUGH ABANDONED IS A MISLEADING WORD, BECAUSE FROM HERE IT'S NOT SUCH A LONG STEP UNTIL WE'RE FACE TO FACE WITH...

The Terror Beyond Time!

YOU'RE HALF INDIAN TERHLUNE, NOT HALF-GOAT! WAIT'LL THE OTHERS CATCH UP...IF WEYMOUTH WENT DOWN WITH THIS SLIDE, YOU WON'T HELP BY FALLING ON TOP OF HIM.


A LONG TIME AGO THERE WAS A SILVER BOOM, EVERYBODY WITH A SHOVEL WAS DIGGING FOR IT. THE SILVER'S GONE NOW, BUT THE MOUNTAINS ARE HONEY-COMBED WITH MINESHAFTS TO PROVE IT WAS THERE ONCE. WHY PROFESSOR NILES WEYMOUTH WANTED TO GO WANDERING AROUND THROUGH THEM NOBODY KNEW, BUT WHEN HE DIDN'T COME BACK, EVERYBODY DECIDED TO FIND OUT...AND AS DEPUTY SHERIFF, I WAS RIGHT AT THE HEAD OF THE PACK...

JUST HOLD THE LIGHT STEADY, MONTE... I THINK I SEE SOMETHING OVER THERE!



BETTER GET BACK UP, JIM...THAT'S LOOSE STUFF YOU'RE ON...CAP DOESN'T PROVE ANYTHING... COULD BE OLD...

COULD BE, BUT IT'S NEW... HAS INITIALS IN IT..."N.W."!



THAT'S ALL WE NEED TO KNOW...IT'S GONNA TAKE MEN AND EQUIPMENT TO DO MORE. C'MON BACK, JIM...

IF HE'S DOWN THERE, HE COULD BE ALIVE...HURT! LONG AS I'VE GONE THIS FAR, I BETTER TAKE A LOOK...

BEHIND THE FLASHLIGHT'S GLARE, MONTE MUTTERED AND SWORE TO HIMSELF. I WAS GOING TO SAY SOMETHING FUNNY, BUT IT NEVER GOT OUT AS THE LITTLE BIT OF WORLD I HAD HOLD OF BEGAN TO GO TO PIECES...**FAST!**

FOR A TIME I JUST LAY THERE, UNABLE TO DISTINGUISH THE RINGING IN MY EARS FROM MONTE'S SHOUTS SOMEWHERE ABOVE ME. SOMETHING ELSE BOTHERED ME...IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PITCH BLACK, BUT IT WASN'T...



JIM! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? JIM?!

LIGHT... SOME KIND OF GLOW FROM UP AHEAD.

I BEGAN TO MOVE TOWARD THE LIGHT MEANING TO ANSWER MONTE JUST AS SOON AS I KNEW WHAT IT WAS...BUT SOMEHOW, IT WAS FURTHER AWAY THAN I EXPECTED...

JIM! FOR GOD'S SAKE, ANSWER ME IF YOU CAN...JIM!!

NOTHING MAN-MADE TOO BRIGHT FOR PHOSPHORUS...

UNTIL, BEFORE I REALIZED IT, I WAS
IN THE MIDDLE OF IT...BATHED AND
SURROUNDED BY BRILLIANCE...

THE OVERWHELMING GLOW BECAME A SWIRL-
ING VORTEX PULLING ME, DRAWING ME, FURTHER
AND FURTHER, DEEPER AND DEEPER...



THEN IT WAS
ALL OVER...
AND JUST
BEGINNING!

T-THIS IS *INSANE*...
IT CAN'T *BE*! THERE'S
NO WAY...



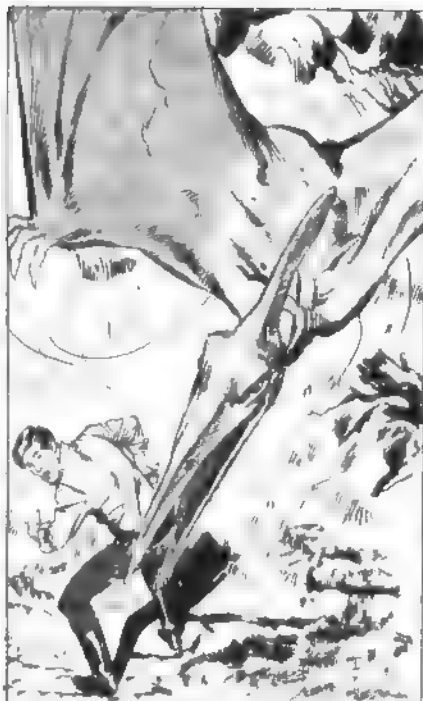
HAS TO BE SOME
EXPLANATION...THE
FALL MUST HAVE DONE
SOMETHING TO M...
WHAT TH...!



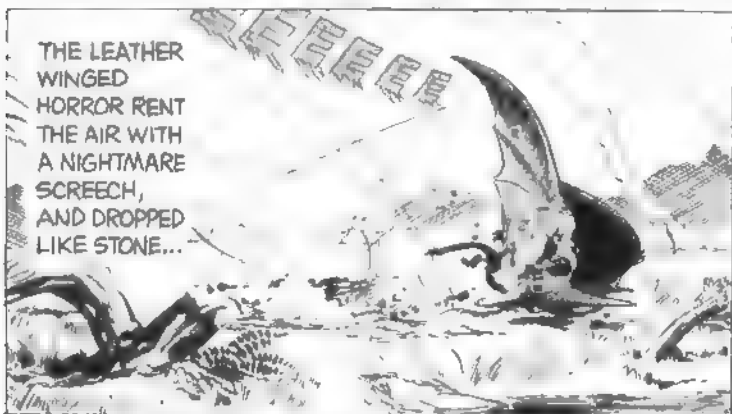
OH, GOD!



POSSIBLY, IT WAS LUCK, PROBABLY IT WAS TRAINING...MY SENSES MIGHT'VE LEFT ME BUT MY REFLEXES HADN'T...



THE LEATHER WINGED HORROR RENT THE AIR WITH A NIGHTMARE SCREECH, AND DROPPED LIKE STONE...



THE SPONGY FLOOR OF THE MARSH KEPT THE GARGOYLE BODY FROM CRUSHING ME, AND SHEER REVULSION GOT ME OUT FROM UNDER IT QUICKLY...



PTERODACTYL! NO HALLUCINATION EVER LOOKED OR FELT **THIS** REAL! I'M IN THE PREHISTORIC PAST...



...OR SOMEWHERE!



WITH A GRUNT, THEY WERE ON ME! A TERRIBLE TIDE OF HALF-ANIMAL SAVAGES. TOO MANY AND TOO CLOSE TO EFFECTIVELY USE MY GUN.



...BUT NOT A CLUB!



THE TOUCH OF DAMP CLOTH TO MY HEAD BROUGHT ME AROUND BUT OPENING MY EYES PLACED A BURDEN ON MY SANITY.

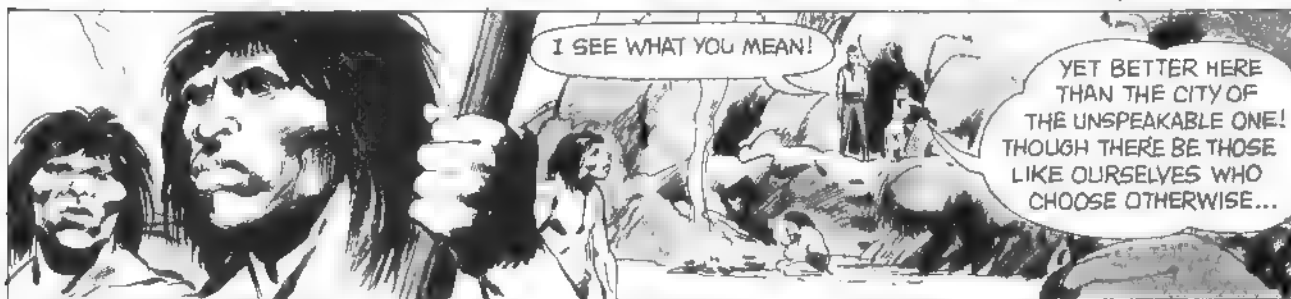
WHO...? HOW DID YOU...?

I AM CALLED LENORE...LIKE THYSELF I AM A PRISONER OF THE HAIRY ONES...



WHERE ARE WE, LENORE? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

TO THE FIRST, I KNOW NOT SURELY. SAVE IT IS A PLACE MOST TERRIBLE! AS FOR MY HOME, IT IS ENGLAND..WOULD I BE THERE ONCE MORE!



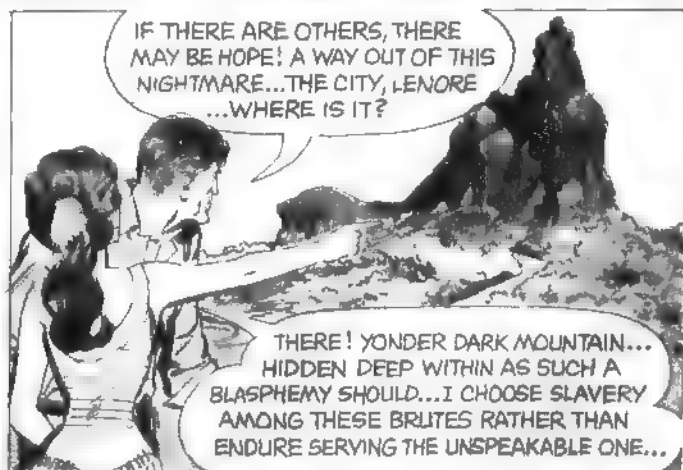
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!

YET BETTER HERE THAN THE CITY OF THE UNSPEAKABLE ONE! THOUGH THERE BE THOSE LIKE OURSELVES WHO CHOOSE OTHERWISE...




THERE'S A CITY? WITH OTHER PEOPLE LIKE OURSELVES?

ALIKE...BUT OF VARIOUS MANNER AND AGES UN-DREAMT OF...AS SURELY THOU ARE NOT OF MY TIME!



IF THERE ARE OTHERS, THERE MAY BE HOPE! A WAY OUT OF THIS NIGHTMARE...THE CITY, LENORE...WHERE IS IT?

THERE! YONDER DARK MOUNTAIN... HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN AS SUCH A BLASPHEMY SHOULD...I CHOOSE SLAVERY AMONG THESE BRUTES RATHER THAN ENDURE SERVING THE UNSPEAKABLE ONE...



I FELT A CHILL AS SHE SPOKE. FROM THE PRESENT SITUATION, LENORE OBVIOUSLY WAS NOT ONE EASILY FRIGHTENED...YET HER EYES GREW WIDE IN TERROR AS SHE STARED AT THE MOUNTAIN...

WHO...WHAT...IS THE UNSPEAKABLE ONE...?

I-I KNOW NOT CERTAINLY... I DID BUT ONCE FAINTLY GLIMPSE WITHIN ITS CHAMBER AND...

WHATEVER HORROR THE GIRL FROM THE MIDDLE AGES WAS ABOUT TO HINT AT WAS SUDDENLY OBLITERATED BY SCREAMS HERALDING DANGER MORE IMMEDIATE...

TYRANNOSAURS!



MY GUN! LENORE, WHEN THEY BROUGHT ME IN...DID THEY BRING MY GUN WITH ME?

GUN? THE WORD IS STRANGE...WHEN FIRST PLACED BEFORE ME, IN A DEATH LIKE GRIP YOU CLUTCHED AN OBJECT.



...THIS! IS IT A WEAPON?

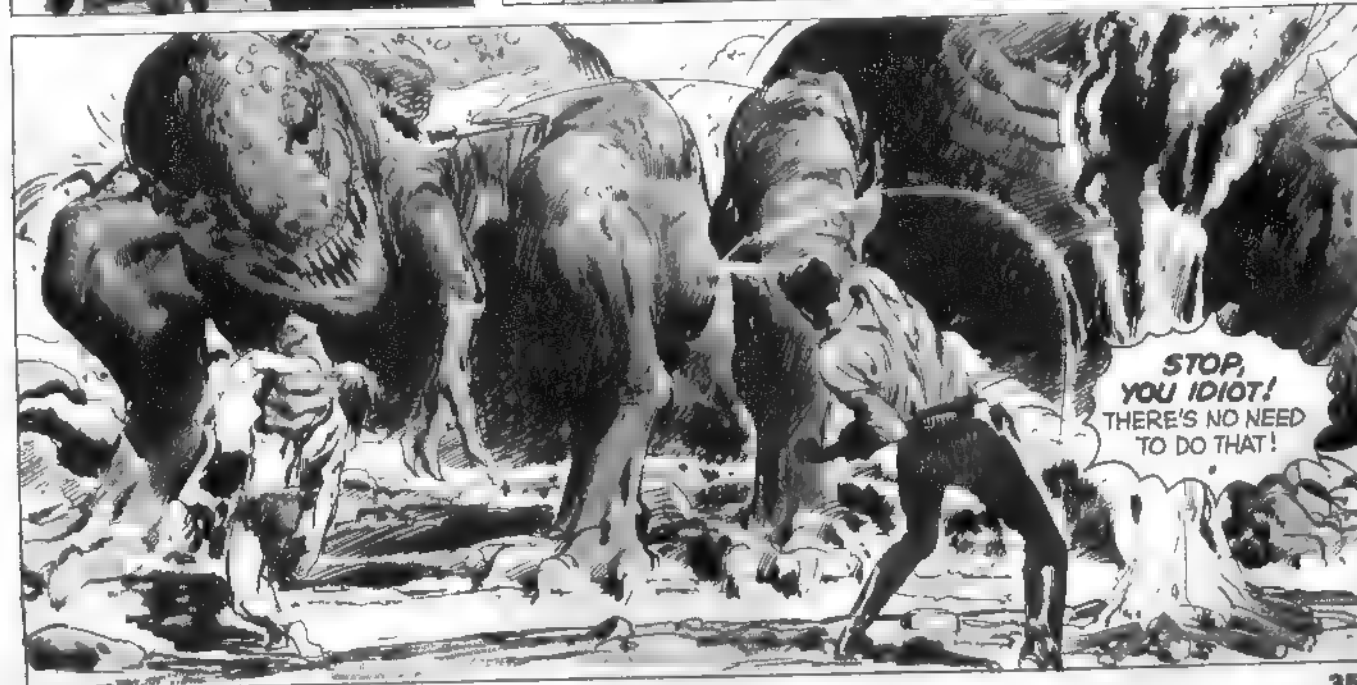
IT WAS! IT'LL BE OF NO USE TO US UNTIL I CAN CLEAN IT.



THE CAVE'S TOO SHALLOW TO AVOID THEIR REACH...MAYBE THE FIRE WILL WORK.



STAY BEHIND ME, LENORE!



STOP, YOU IDIOT! THERE'S NO NEED TO DO THAT!

EVEN AS I HEARD THE WORDS, I FOUND NO LOGICAL REASON TO BELIEVE THEM...BUT, MAYBE BECAUSE THEY WERE SPOKEN IN REGULAR AMERICANIZED ENGLISH, MAYBE BECAUSE I SAW THE TORCHES WEREN'T WORKING...
I STOPPED...



THESE AREN'T QUITE THE MONSTERS THEY APPEAR...THERE IS A WILL THAT CONTROLS THEM...THAT CONTROLS THIS ENTIRE WORLD.

TYRANOSAURS SO WELL CONTROLLED THEY **RAVAGE AN ENTIRE CAMP...**? YOU SURE **THEY** KNOW ABOUT THIS WILL...?

MILES WEYMOUTH! I HARDLY EXPECTED ANYONE TO SEARCH FOR ME **THIS** FAR! BUT SINCE YOU'RE HERE, YOU MUST MEET **THE MASTER!**

WAIT-A-MINUTE I **KNOW** YOU... YOU'RE...

FINDING YOU WAS MY JOB PROFESSOR...I JUST DIDN'T COUNT ON IT'S BEING SO INVOLVED! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

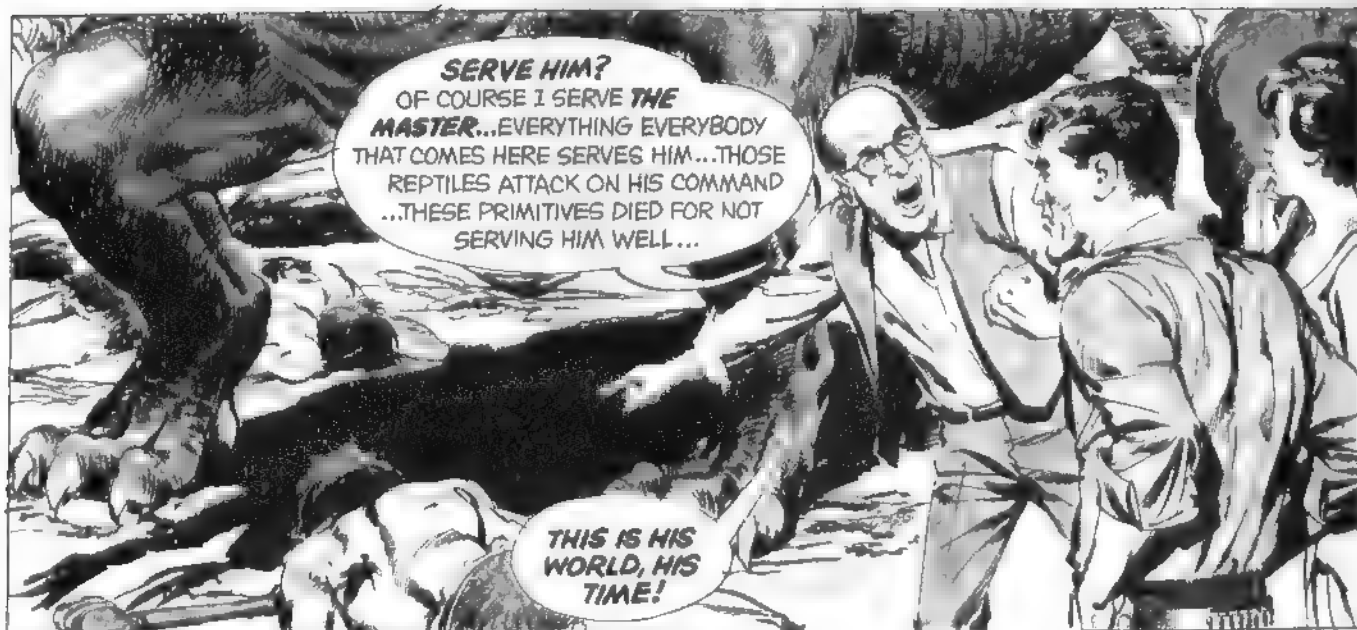


THERE! THAT'S WHAT IT'S ABOUT...THAT'S WHAT THIS WHOLE PLACE IS ABOUT! YOU'D BEST COME WITH ME...

TO THE CITY... THE CITY IN THE MOUNTAIN...

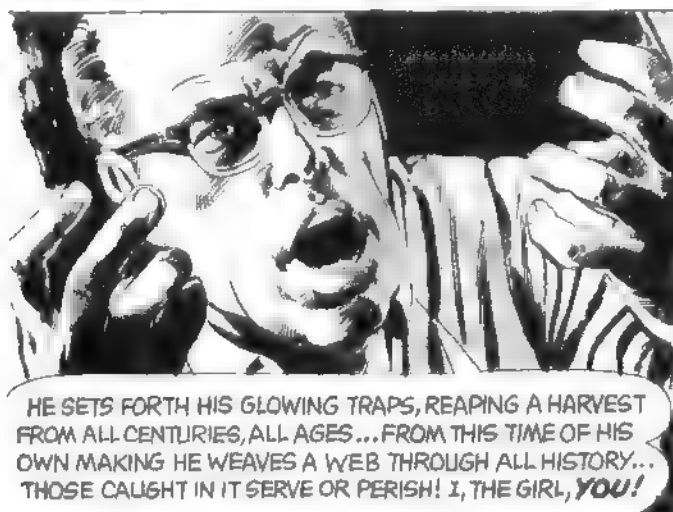
NO! THOU MUST NOT! HE SERVES THE UNSPEAKABLE ONE. OF ALL IN THE CITY ONLY THIS ONE **SOUGHT** TO COME THERE. **DO NOT GO!**

WELL, WEYMOUTH...?



SERVE HIM?
OF COURSE I SERVE **THE MASTER**...EVERYTHING EVERYBODY THAT COMES HERE SERVES HIM...THOSE REPTILES ATTACK ON HIS COMMAND ...THESE PRIMITIVES DIED FOR NOT SERVING HIM WELL...

THIS IS HIS WORLD, HIS TIME!



HE SETS FORTH HIS GLOWING TRAPS, REAPING A HARVEST FROM ALL CENTURIES, ALL AGES...FROM THIS TIME OF HIS OWN MAKING HE WEAVES A WEB THROUGH ALL HISTORY...THOSE CAUGHT IN IT SERVE OR PERISH! I, THE GIRL, **YOU!**

THAT'S CRAZY, WEYMOUTH! STARK MADNESS! YOU'RE A PROFESSOR ...A MAN OF INTELLIGENCE...**USE IT!** HELP US GET OUT OF THIS INSANITY!

OUT? YES, I'LL SHOW YOU THE WAY OUT... **NOW!**

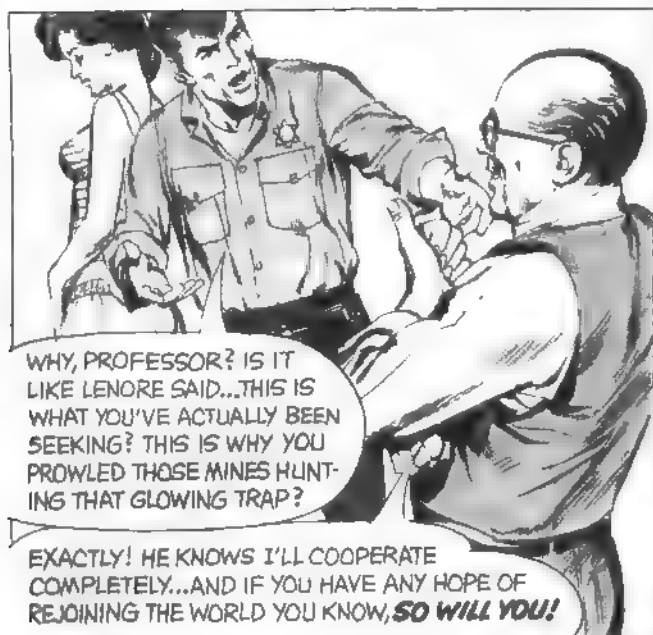


ONE MOMENT I WAS PULLING AT WEYMOUTH'S JACKET, THE NEXT THAT VORTEX FORCE WAS PULLING BOTH OF US...DRAWING, SPINNING, WHIRLING US, WITH THE SAME POWER THAT HAD THRUST ME INTO THE WHOLE NIGHTMARE TO BEGIN WITH...

IT ENDED MUCH SOONER THAN THE FIRST TIME, AND I WASN'T OUT OF ANYTHING...

W-WHERE ARE WE, WEYMOUTH? WAS THAT A SUMMONS FROM THAT .THING?

YOU FLATTER YOURSELF, TERHUNE...THIS HAS BEEN MY DOING! HE'S ALLOWED ME CERTAIN LIMITED USE OF SOME POWERS TO FURTHER HIS WILL...



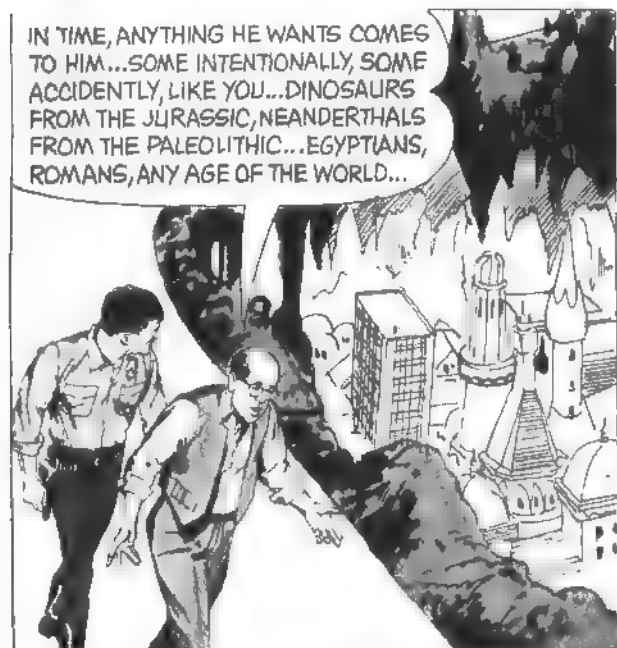
WHY, PROFESSOR? IS IT LIKE LENORE SAID...THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE ACTUALLY BEEN SEEKING? THIS IS WHY YOU PROWLED THOSE MINES HUNTING THAT GLOWING TRAP?

EXACTLY! HE KNOWS I'LL COOPERATE COMPLETELY...AND IF YOU HAVE ANY HOPE OF REJOINING THE WORLD YOU KNOW, **SO WILL YOU!**



FOR YEARS I FOUND HINTS OF THIS PLACE... THIS TIME BEYOND TIME...REFERENCES IN OBSCURE VOLUMES OF THE FABLED CITY OF THE DARK MOUNTAIN...

HE ARRANGES THEM, KNOWING SOME DAY, SOMETIME THEY'LL ATTRACT BELIEVERS...LIKE ME!



IN TIME, ANYTHING HE WANTS COMES TO HIM...SOME INTENTIONALLY, SOME ACCIDENTALLY, LIKE YOU...DINOSAURS FROM THE JURASSIC, NEANDERTHALS FROM THE PALEOLITHIC...EGYPTIANS, ROMANS, ANY AGE OF THE WORLD...



MY MIND WAS GROWING DRUNK ON WEYMOUTH'S RAVINGS, BUT IN THAT SETTING, AFTER WHAT HAD HAPPENED, WHO COULD DOUBT HIM...

AND MOST WHO COME TO HIM BECOME FINGERS TO REACH BACK INTO THE PATH OF TIME AND CLAW OUT MORE...HE EXISTS TO CONQUER AND CONTROL, AND IN THIS MANNER, ONE DAY, **HE WILL!**



ZOMBIE-LIKE, I REELED AFTER THE PROFESSOR...PHYSICAL MENACES LIKE THE GIANT REPTILES, THE CAVE MEN, I COULD UNDERSTAND AND COMBAT, BUT THE MASTER WEYMOUTH SERVED REMAINED TERRIFYINGLY BEYOND MY GRASP...

THESE PEOPLE... THEY ALL SEEM TO BE WAITING...

THEY ARE, DEPUTY! WAITING TO BE **USED**, AS I VOLUNTEERED TO BE! THEY'LL RETURN TO THEIR WORLDS...WITH **HIM** IN THEIR MINDS! MINUTE PROBES THAT BIT BY BIT GAIN HIM MORE OF A HOLD...



THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT!
THAT'S THE WAY I CAN ESCAPE
THIS PLACE...AS A HOST FOR...**HIM!**
WHAT IS HE, WEYMOUTH?
WHAT IS HE?

HE'S AN
EXISTENCE, TERHUNE,
A FACT...TO EACH
MAN DIFFERENT! TO
ME HE IS **POWER,**
FORCE, A MOVER
BEHIND LIFE...



LOOK ON HIM, DEPUTY
...SEE WHAT HE IS
YOURSELF!

OH, LORD!
OH, MY
GOD!

I LOOKED DOWN AND KNEW WHAT **HE** WAS TO ME. IF **EVIL** WAS
NOT AN ABSTRACT CONCEPT, IF IT WAS A **LIVING BEING...**
THEN I WOULD HAVE BEEN STARING IT IN THE FACE!



CAN...CAN
IT SEE US?

NOT NOW, HE IS
OCCUPIED! THE GLOW
MEANS AT SOMETIME,
AT SOME POINT IN
HISTORY, HE USES SOME-
ONE...PERHAPS NOW, HE
GUIDES AN ATILA,
A NAPOLEON, A
HITLER...

AND SOON, IT WILL BE **ME!** I HUNGER FOR THE DESTINY **HIS** FORCE MAY GIVE ME...AFTER THAT, PERHAPS **YOU!** A DEPUTY SHERIFF, YOUNG, BRAVE...**HE** MAY GUIDE YOU INTO POLITICS, GOVERNMENT...

NO...

NO...

NO...



NO! I WON'T BE A PART OF ANYTHING WITH...**T-THAT!**



RUN! IT DOESN'T MATTER! **HE** DOESN'T CARE! THERE IS NO PLACE TO ESCAPE...ONE DAY YOU **MUST** COME TO HIM, OR PERISH IN HIS LAND! ETERNITIES ARE SECONDS TO HIM...**ONE DAY YOU'LL COME!**



I FLED FROM THE MOUNTAIN, MY EARS RINGING WITH WEYMOUTH'S TERRIBLE WORDS, MY EYES BURNING FROM THE SIGHT OF THAT WRITHING MASS OF OBSCENITY...

ONLY AT THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN DID MY MIND FREE ITSELF OF THE HORROR I'D JUST WITNESSED... A SCREAM CUT THROUGH TO ME...



LENORE!



LENORE AND I HAD BUT ONE MOMENT OF PEACE IN THAT LAND OF HORROR. WE MADE IT A LONG ONE...LATER, I RE-PAIRED THE PISTOL, PUTTING IT BACK INTO WORKING ORDER...

DARK THOUGHTS CREASE THY BROW, MY JAMES... THEY ARE THOUGHTS OF THE UNSPEAKABLE ONE...

IF IT DIES...IF IT **CAN** DIE, OR BE HURT...PERHAPS THOSE HELD HERE BY ITS WILL WOULD BE RELEASED...



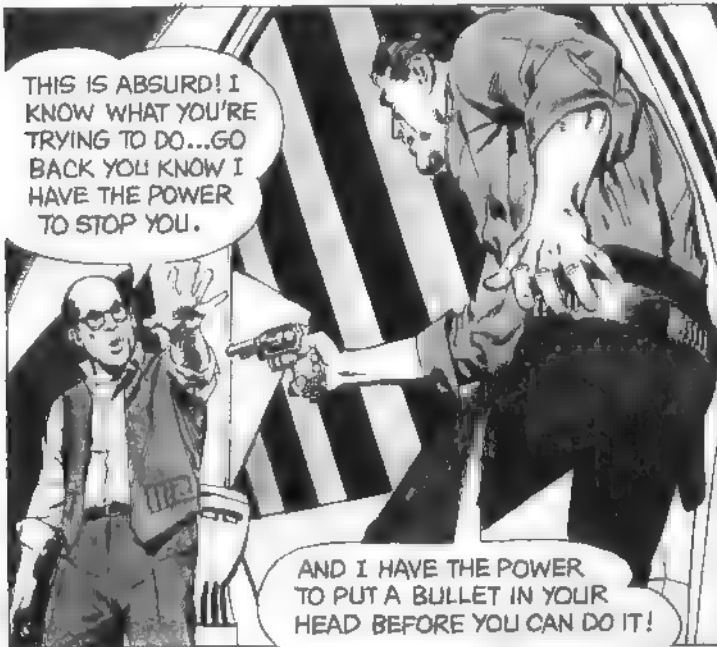
THERE WAS NO MORE SAID THAN THAT. NO QUESTION OF MY NOT TRYING IT, NO QUESTION OF HER NOT ACCOMPANYING ME...

IF IT'S USING SOMEONE, IF IT'S OCCUPIED, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE...

BUT EVEN IF WE SUCCEED, WHAT THEN...? SHE'LL BE IN HER CENTURY AND I IN MINE.



THIS IS ABSURD! I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO...GO BACK YOU KNOW I HAVE THE POWER TO STOP YOU.



AND I HAVE THE POWER TO PUT A BULLET IN YOUR HEAD BEFORE YOU CAN DO IT!

YOU'RE SUCH A FOOL, TERHUNE, TO TRY THIS...YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE NOBLE FOOLS WHO'LL SHOOT IF THREATENED... BUT WHAT IF I JUST TURN, AND RUN IN TO **HIM**?

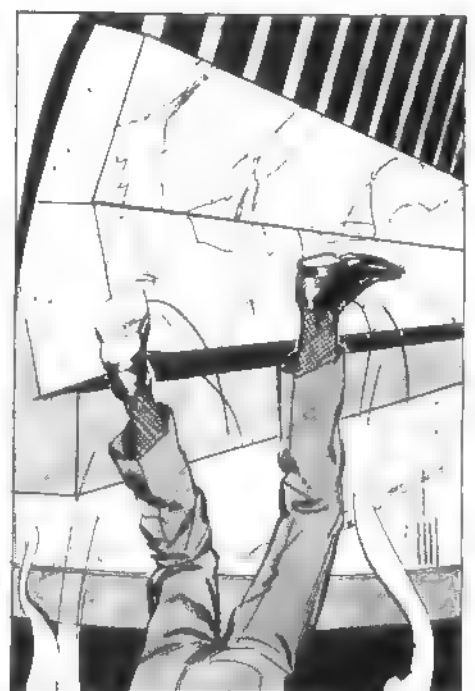


I'LL STILL SHOOT, WEYMOUTH! TO DESTROY THAT THING, I'LL STILL SHOOT...

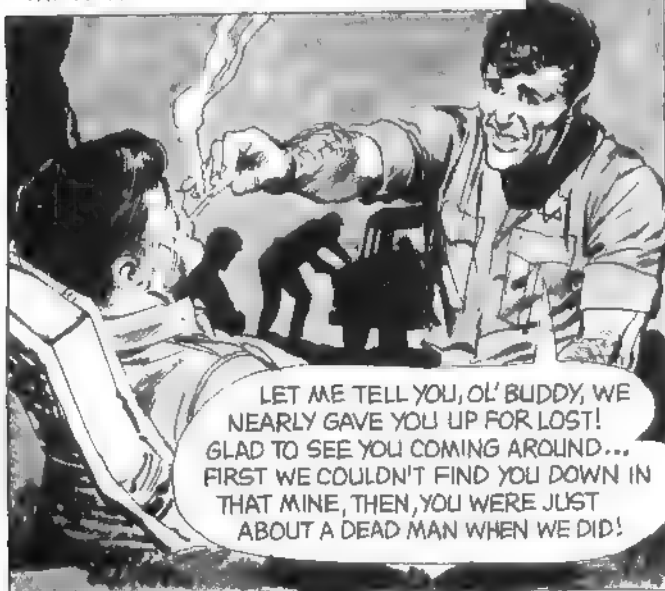
LOOK OUT! PROTECT YOURSELF! ASSASSINS! ASSASSINS!

WEYMOUTH! STOP! DON'T DO IT!





THE NEXT VOICE I HEARD WAS MONTE...



LET ME TELL YOU, OL' BUDDY, WE NEARLY GAVE YOU UP FOR LOST! GLAD TO SEE YOU COMING AROUND... FIRST WE COULDN'T FIND YOU DOWN IN THAT MINE, THEN, YOU WERE JUST ABOUT A DEAD MAN WHEN WE DID!



WHAT ABOUT WEYMOUTH?

NOT A TRACE! IF HE'D BEEN DOWN THERE, WE'D HAVE FOUND HIM LOOKING FOR YOU...



NOW I GUESS YOU CAN SAY "I TOLD YOU SO"...

ANYBODY GOES TUMBLING DOWN A ROCK SLIDE SUPPOSEDLY LOOKING FOR SOME HALF-BAKED PROFESSOR...



UNTIL THIS MOMENT I THOUGHT I'D DREAMED IT ALL, BUT HOW IS IT POSSIBLE...HOW?!

MY THOUGHTS WERE NEVER OF THINGS PAST, NOR DAYS REMEMBERED, ONLY OF THEE, MY JAMES. IF THIS BE THE ANSWER, I KNOW NOT, AND IF I BE WITH THEE, I CARE NOT!



...AND WINDS UP BESIDE SOMEONE LIKE THIS YOUNG LADY, **MUST** KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING!

LENORE!



LATER THERE WERE MANY QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT LENORE AND A FEW ANSWERS TO BE GIVEN, BUT WE WERE HAPPY, AND ONLY IN QUIET MOMENTS ON GLOOMY DAYS, DO I WONDER ABOUT MY LAST SHOTS AND THE EFFECT THEY HAD, AND IF SOMEWHERE BEYOND TIME, EVIL STIRS AND GLOWING TRAPS PENETRATE CENTURIES TO WAIT FOR THOSE WHO SEEK THEM.

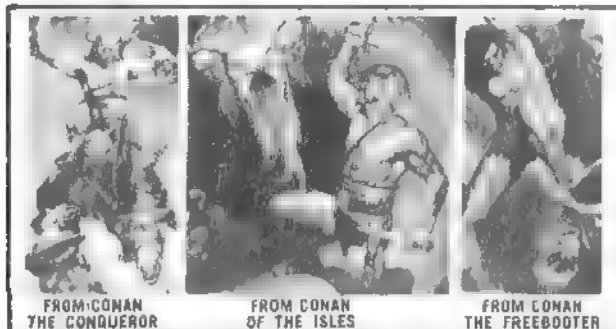
TIME NOW TO MOVE ON TOWARD OUR NEXT ISSUE AND... WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY, FIRST YOU WANT TO SEE WHAT THAT LIGHT IS UP AHEAD? OKAY, BUT YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK IF YOU COME BACK IN A CENTURY WHEN WE'RE NOT PUBLISHING!



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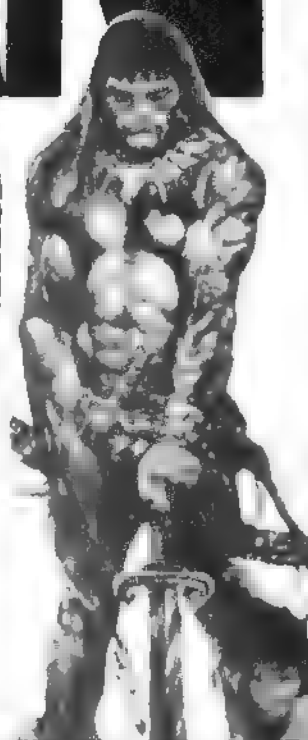
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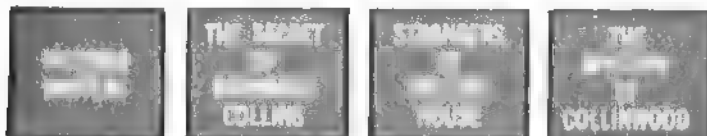
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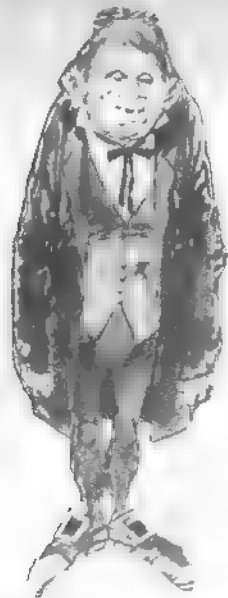
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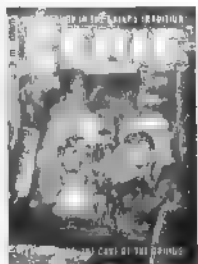
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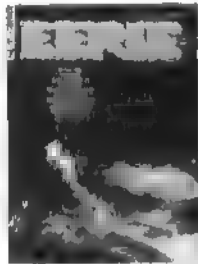
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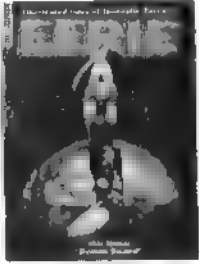
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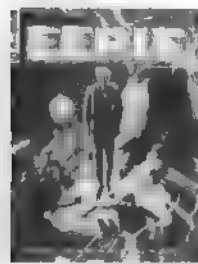
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COME'N, YOU **GHOULISH GALOOTS!** SADDLE UP AND RIDE WITH **UNCLE CREEPY** INTO THE WILD WEST WHERE MEN ARE MEN--OR ARE THEY?! LET'S FIND OUT AS WE WATCH THE...

REVENGE of the BEAST!

THERE'S THE RELAY STATION, CREED!
LOOKS QUIET ENOUGH... MAYBE THE
STAGE BROKE DOWN... THAT'S WHY
WE AIN'T HEARD FROM MOSS
AND THE OTHERS!

PINKY! HOW LONG YOU GONNA BE OUT WEST
'FORE YOU LEARN TO USE ALL YOUR SENSES
NOT JUST YOUR EYES!



GRAY MORROW

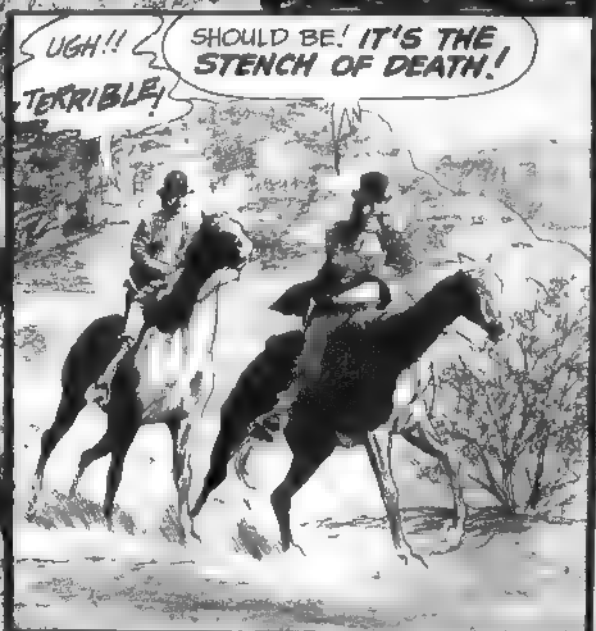
I DON'T HEAR
ANYTHIN'
EITHER...

NOT YOUR EARS, YOUR
NOSE! CATCH THE SMELL
ON THAT BREEZE!



UGH!!
TERRIBLE!

SHOULD BE! IT'S THE
STENCH OF DEATH!



CORRAL RAILS KICKED DOWN... HORSES MUSTA BEEN PRETTY SCARED!



TEAM BROKE THEIR TRACES.. RAN OFF!

CREED! IT'D TAKE SUMPTIN' MIGHTY AWFUL TO MAKE A WELL-TRAINED TEAM TO DO THAT!



I DON'T LIKE ANY OF THIS! AIN'T NORMAL! IF IT WAS A DOUBLE CROSS OR TRAP, THEY'D HAVE DONE SUMPTIN' 'FORE NOW!

WHAT'S IT MEAN, CREED?

I DON'T KNOW! NOT TILL I GET INSIDE!



KICK 'ER OPEN, PINKY!

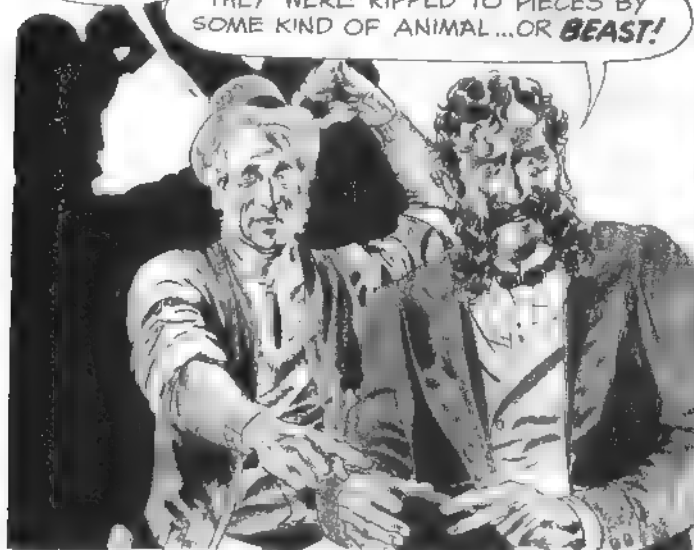


LORD! LOOKS LIKE A HERD OF WILDCATS GOT LOOSE HERE! AND SMELLS LIKE A SLAUGHTERHOUSE!



CREED! THERE!
IT'S MOSS!

AND HORNE! AND BANKS! OR
WHAT'S LEFT OF 'EM! LIKE
THEY WERE RIPPED TO PIECES BY
SOME KIND OF ANIMAL...OR **BEAST!**



CREED! IT'S JUST LIKE THE OL' INDIAN SAID!



IT HAD BEEN THREE WEEKS EARLIER... LED BY CREED, DISTRICT HEAD OF THE STAGE LINE, THEY'D BEEN PLOTTING A NEW STAGECOACH ROUTE... PINKY, THE DISPATCHER, MOSS, THE STATION OPERATOR, HORNE, THE DRIVER, AND THE SHOTGUN GUARD, BANKS... BUT THEY FOUND MUCH MORE!



INDIAN SIGN! BEEN NO INDIANS IN THIS
TERRITORY FOR YEARS... **MOSS!** GET UP
HERE! TAKE A LOOK AT THESE!



YOU'RE THE
OLD SCOUT...
WHAT DO YOU
MAKE OF IT?

BAD MEDICINE... **"KEEP OUT!"**
B-BUT THIS LANCE... HAVEN'T
SEEN ONE IN TWENTY YEARS!
WIKASHA! TRIBE'S SUPPOSED
TO BE **EXTINCT!**

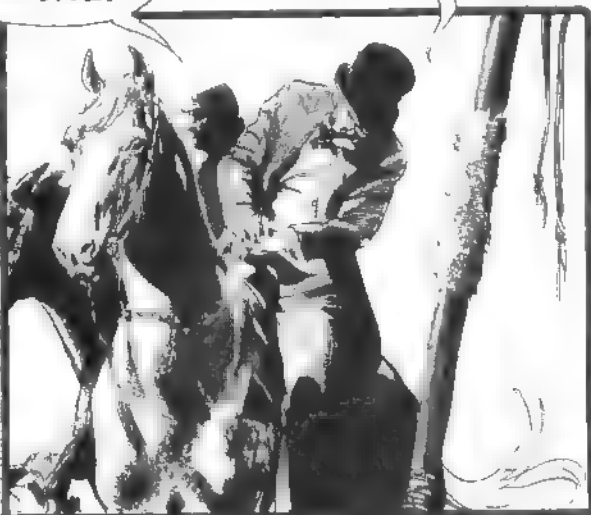
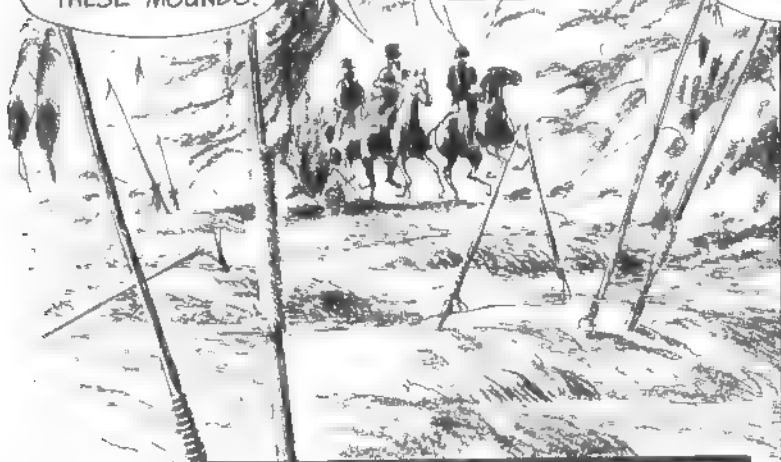


YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THE WIKASHAS BEIN' EXTINCT... LOOK AT ALL THESE MOUNDS!

IT'S THEIR **BURIAL GROUND!** BIGGEST ONE I EVER SAW!

NOT LIKELY MANY WHITE MEN'D GET TO SEE SUMPTIN' LIKE THIS... AND **LIVE!**

HERE'S SOMETHING YOU'D ALL RATHER SEE THAN THESE MOUNDS!

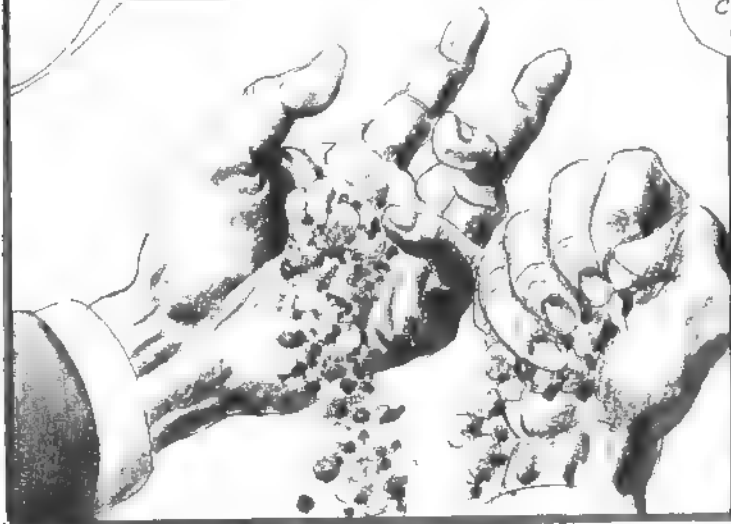


GOLD! GROUND AROUND THESE MOUNDS IS RICH WITH IT! AND ALL OURS FOR THE TAKIN'!

WE CAN'T LET ANYTHING LEAK OUT ABOUT THIS. EVERYBODY IN TOWN'LL COME SWARMING ALL OVER HERE!

DON'T WORRY! THIS IS ONE LITTLE SECRET WE'RE KEEPIN' ALL TO OURSELVES!

WHITE EYES! LEAVE THIS SACRED GROUND!



WHAT? IT'S SOME OLD INDIAN!

YOU DISTURB THE SLEEP OF THE WARRIORS OF THE **WIKASHA!** **GO!** WHILE YOU ARE STILL ABLE!

WE'LL GO, REDSKIN... WHEN WE'VE DUG OUT ALL THE GOLD WE WANT!

WHAT GOOD IS THE YELLOW DIRT, WHITE EYES, IF YOU ARE CONSUMED BY **KWI-UKTENA**, DEVIL BEAST-THAT-WALKS-LIKE-MAN? LEAVE OR KNOW THE **BEAST!**





RIDING AWAY, THE ECHO OF THE OLD INDIAN'S WORDS RANG IN EACH MAN'S EARS AND BEHIND THEM COULD BE FELT THE DREAD PRESENCE OF **KWI-UK TENA**, THE BEAST-MAN!



YOU WERE SCARED AS THE REST OF US, CREED! BUT LATER ON YOU LAUGHED... SAID IT WAS IMAGINATION! WHAT ABOUT THIS? HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS?

I DON'T KNOW! EVERYTHING WAS PLANNED... HORNE'D BRING THE ASSAYER'S REPORT INTO TOWN BY STAGE SO NOBODY'D SUSPECT... IF IT WAS GOOD, WE'D MEET HERE AN' GO DIG OUT THOSE MOUNDS! BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED HERE!

WELL, I KNOW! THAT OLD INDIAN! HE'S **KWI-UKTENA!** HE CAN CHANGE INTO A **BEAST!**... HE DID THIS AND HE--

SHUT UP, PINKY! THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE IN HERE!



I HEARD SOMEONE BREATHING... RIGHT OVER **HERE!**

CREED! MOCCASINS! IT'S--

--**THE OLD INDIAN!**

WHITE EYES! IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO MEET **KWI-UKTENA!** AS YOUR FRIENDS DID!



MAYBE WE MISSED YOU IN THE BURIAL GROUNDS... BUT NOT THIS TIME!

SHOOT! GET 'IM FAST BEFORE HE TURNS INTO A **BEAST!**



KA-BLAM!
POW!



N NO, WHITE EYES! I AM NOT **KWI-UKTENA!**
AND KILLING ME WILL NOT KEEP HIM
FROM YOU!

HE IS THE WIKASHA SPIRIT OF EVIL, WHO MUST
LIVE IN PLACES OF THE DEAD!



CREED! WHAT'S
HAPPENIN' ?!

...UNTIL HE CAN ENTER THE
BODIES OF EVIL MEN, BRINGING
OUT THE BEAST THAT IS THE EVIL
MAN'S NATURE ..

PINKY! I'M
GETTINGRRRR-
RRRRAGHHH!

... SETTING HIM UPON ANY AND
ALL ABOUT, TO RIP, TEAR, AND
DESTROY JUST AS YOUR FRIENDS
DID TO EACH OTHER...



... AND JUST AS YOU WILL DO TO ONE ANOTHER!!



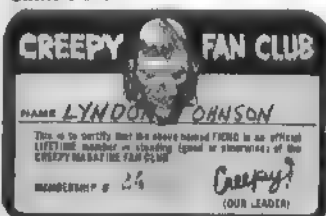
LOOKS LIKE THE INDIANS
ARE FINALLY GETTING
BACK FOR HAVING TO
BITE THE DUST IN ALL
THOSE WESTERNS ...
HEE, HEE! THEY'VE
GOT THE COWBOYS
BITING EACH OTHER!
WATCH OUT OR **KWI-
UKTENA** MAY PUT
THE **BITE** ON YOU!



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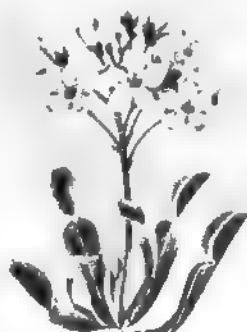
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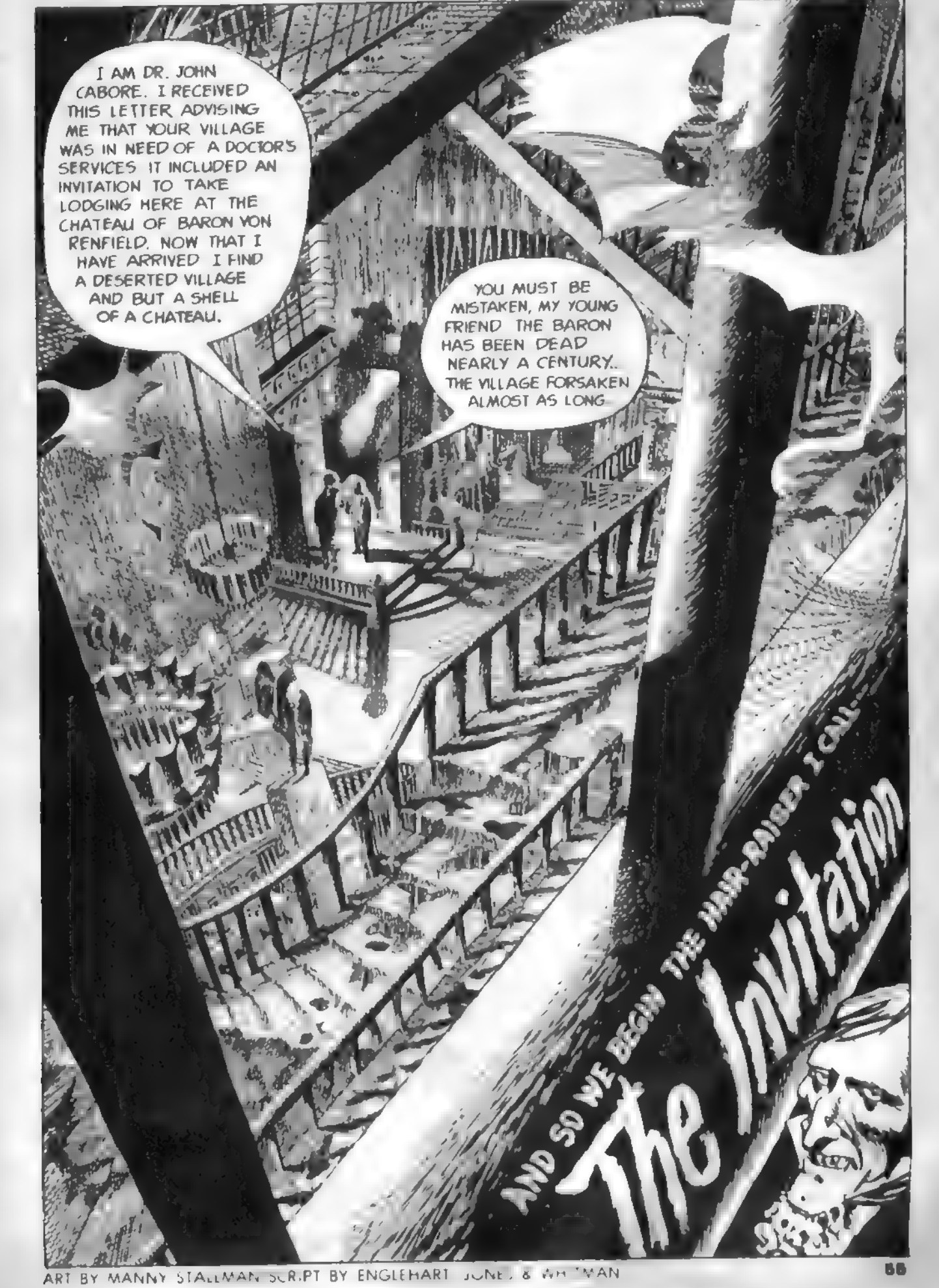
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I AM DR. JOHN CABORE. I RECEIVED THIS LETTER ADVISING ME THAT YOUR VILLAGE WAS IN NEED OF A DOCTOR'S SERVICES IT INCLUDED AN INVITATION TO TAKE LODGING HERE AT THE CHATEAU OF BARON VON RENFIELD. NOW THAT I HAVE ARRIVED I FIND A DESERTED VILLAGE AND BUT A SHELL OF A CHATEAU.

YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN, MY YOUNG FRIEND THE BARON HAS BEEN DEAD NEARLY A CENTURY. THE VILLAGE FORSAKEN ALMOST AS LONG.

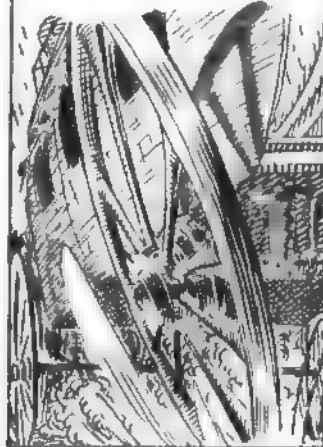
AND SO WE BEGIN THE HAIR-RAISER I CALL
The Invitation

A STRANGE...INDEED SINISTER LEGEND LIES BEHIND THE DECAYING WALLS OF THIS CHATEAU...

IT BEGAN 93 YEARS AGO ON A MOONLIT NIGHT, MUCH LIKE TONIGHT, WHEN BARON VON RENFIELD'S COACH WAS TRAVELING ON THE NARROW ROAD... COMING INTO THE SOUTHERN SLUM OF THE VILLAGE. THE HOUR WAS LATE, AND THE COACHMAN WAS DRIVING THE HORSES AT FULL GALLOP TO DELIVER HIS MASTER TO A LATE RENDEZVOUS....



"UNKNOWN TO THE DRIVER, A DEFECTIVE WHEEL WAS SLOWLY BREAKING FROM THE AXLE WITH EACH JOLT..."



"THEN, WITH ONE GREAT JOG, THE WHEEL FLEW OFF... AND..."



"MIRACULOUSLY, THE BARON ESCAPED INJURY. WITH HIS GOOD RIGHT ARM -- HIS LEFT HAD BEEN LEFT USELESS AS A RESULT OF A WOUND RECEIVED YEARS EARLIER -- HE PULLED HIMSELF OUT OF THE OVERTURNED COACH..."



FINDING HIMSELF BADLY SHAKEN BUT SOUND OF LIMB, THE BARON SURVEYED HIS SITUATION.

PETER!
DEAD, POOR
DEVIL!

MUST COLLECT
MYSELF!
PERHAPS
SOME
WATER...

WHA...?

THAT SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO COMPREHEND! WE ARE VAMPIRES IN SEARCH OF BLOOD! IT WOULD SEEM THAT YOU HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO SATISFY OUR THIRST!

WH...
WHAT DO
YOU WANT.

NO! NO! YOU MUST NOT MAKE ME YOUR **VICTIM!** I AM BARON VON RENFIELD! I AM A MAN OF GREAT INFLUENCE IN HUNGARY! I HAVE FRIENDS... BUSINESS ACQUAINTANCES... MANY PEOPLE... ALL BIGGER... HEALTHIER THAN I! SPARE ME AND I WILL SEE THAT

YOUR CUPS OVERFLOW WITH BLOOD... NOT JUST THIS NIGHT, BUT FOUR NIGHTS! THINK... FOUR FOR ONE! I SWEAR BY MY FAMILY OATH!

YOUR PROPOSAL IS ATTRACTIVE! WE WILL GIVE YOU UNTIL NEXT WEEK AT THIS TIME FOR THE FIRST! BUT, BEAR IN MIND, BARON.. BREACH OF TRUST WILL **LEAD** TO HORRORS YOU CANNOT **IMAGINE!**

"WHEN ONCE AGAIN IN THE SECLUSION OF HIS CHATEAU, BARON VON RENFIELD PACED AWAY THE REMAINDER OF THE NIGHT... HIS THOUGHTS TORE AT HIS FATIGUED MIND, SEEKING A SOLUTION TO HIS PLIGHT..."

THANK GOD...THE SUN! IT ALMOST ERADICATES LAST NIGHT'S GHASTLY ENCOUNTER! BUT I KNOW THE VAMPIRES WERE NO NIGHTMARE! NOR MY VOW TO THEM...

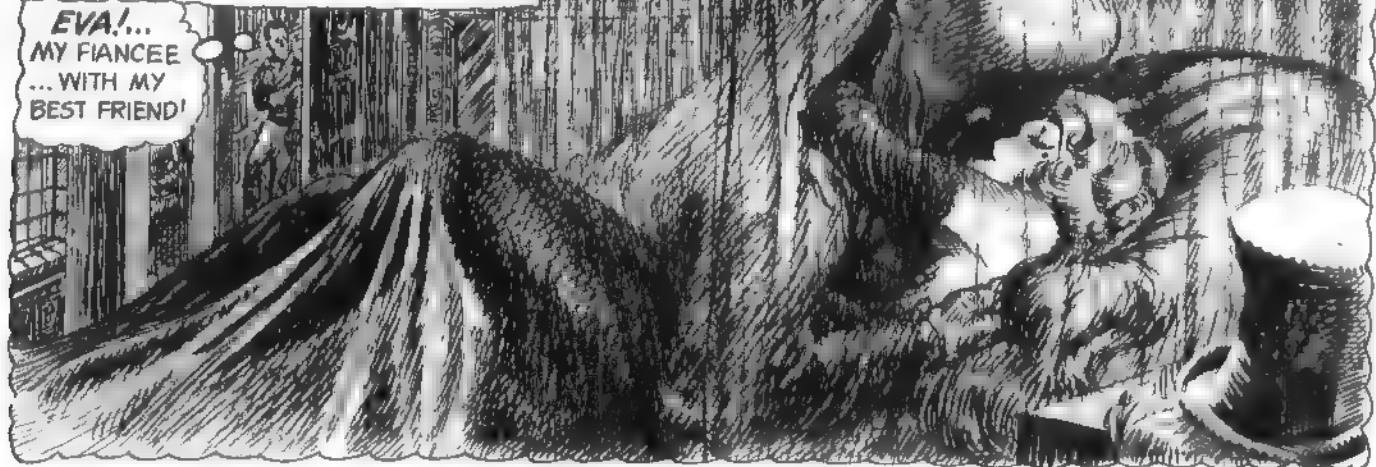


WHA! I SHALL GIVE A MASQUERADE BALL! WINE, MUSIC... AND A VERY SPECIAL GUEST...



"WITH FEVERISH FINGERS, THE BARON SCRAWLED OUT THE INVITATION... HE ALMOST FELT PAIN IN HIS DEADENED LEFT ARM AS HIS MIND RACED BACK TO THAT NIGHT SO MANY YEARS AGO, WHEN HE HAD CHANCED TO COME UPON A LOVERS' MEETING!"

EVA!... MY FIANCEE ... WITH MY BEST FRIEND!



"THERE COULD BE NO ALTERNATIVE... ONE OF NOBLE BLOOD MUST SEEK SATISFACTION! SO IT WAS THAT BARON VON RENFIELD MET BORIS HEDRA ON THE DUELING GROUNDS..."

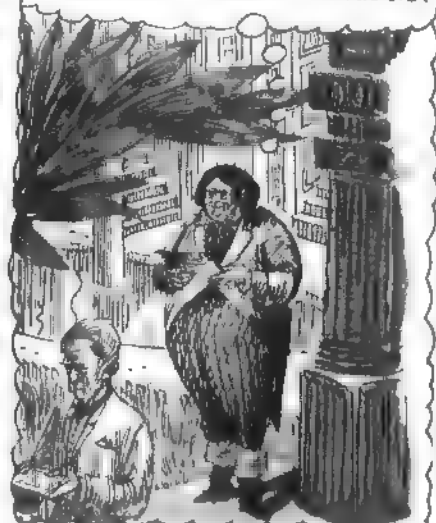
... FOUR... FIVE... SIX...



"THUS, WAS DELIVERED THE WOUND THAT RENDERED HIS LEFT ARM USELESS..."



AN ENVELOPE WITH BARON VON RENFIELD'S SEAL! CURIOUS... INDEED CURIOUS!



"THE BALL WAS HELD ON THE NIGHT OF THE BARON'S DEADLINE WITH THE VAMPIRES.



BORIS, I AM GLAD YOU COULD COME!

FRANKLY, RENNIE, MY INQUIRING MIND WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED ME TO STAY AWAY!



"OUTSIDE THE GREAT BALL-ROOM, ANXIOUS EYES WATCHED IN QUIET ANTICIPATION..."

YOU MUST ADMIT, IT IS A BIT CURIOUS THAT YOU SHOULD EXPRESS A DESIRE TO SEE ME AGAIN, AFTER SO MANY YEARS!

WE WERE CLOSE FRIENDS WHEN WE WERE YOUNG...NOW WE ARE OLD! THE PAST IS PAST ...IT IS TIME WE FORGET OUR QUARREL, BORIS!

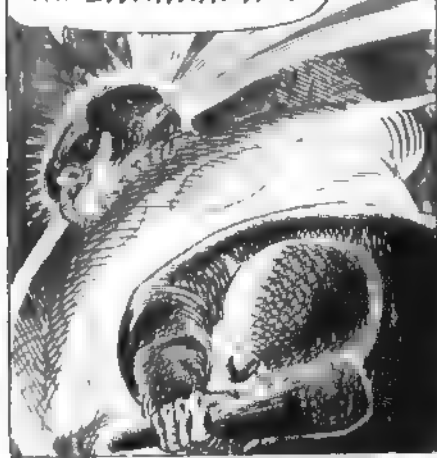


LET US GO OUT ON THE GROUNDS WHERE WE CAN MORE EASILY TALK.

SPLENDID! WE HAVE MANY YEARS' CONVERSATION TO MAKE UP FOR. I HAVE BEEN A LONELY MAN SINCE EVA DIED LAST YEAR!



I WISH SHE WERE HERE NOW. IT BOTHERED HER **DEEPLY** THAT OUR FRIENDSHIP ENDED AS IT.. **UNHHHHHHH!**



"THE LIMP FORM OF BORIS HEDRA WAS SWIFTLY SPIRITED TO A HIDDEN DUNGEON FAR BENEATH THE BALLROOM, WHERE THE VAMPIRES QUICKLY CLUSTERED ABOUT HIM! LOOKING DOWN AT THE NOW CONSCIOUS MAN'S PULSING THROAT, THE UNHOLY GROUP KNEW ITS GLISTENING FANGS WERE ABOUT TO TASTE FRUITS OF PATIENCE. THE FIRST INVITATION HAD BEEN A SUCCESS"



"THE BARON DISCOVERED THAT REVENGE MADE THE COMPILING OF HIS UN-GODLY LIST A MUCH EASIER TASK! WHO WOULD BE MORE LOGICAL TO RECEIVE THE SECOND INVITATION TO DOOM THAN DR. KOVAC, WHO IN ONE OF HIS DRUNKEN STUPORS HAD FAILED TO TAKE PROPER PRECAUTIONS IN REPAIRING THE BARON'S DUELING WOUND? INDEED, HIS DRUNKEN NEGLECT HAD CAUSED INFECTION TO SET IN AND THE BARON'S LEFT ARM TO BE A LIFELESS PULP OF WITHERED FLESH...

IT IS MOST GENEROUS OF YOU, BARON, TO INVITE ME ... WHO?... **VAMPIRES! EEAGHHH!**



"AND WHEN AT LAST THE BLOOD FEAST WAS COMPLETED, THE LEADER OF THE VAMPIRES SPOKE..."

YOU HAVE KEPT YOUR PLEDGE THUS FAR! WE SHALL EXPECT TWO MORE!



"HUGO, THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH, WAS THE THIRD TO RECEIVE AN ENVELOPE WITH THE BARON VON RENFIELD'S SEAL. IT HAD BEEN HUGO'S CARELESS REPAIR OF THE COACH WHEEL THE MORNING OF THE CRASH THAT HAD CAUSED THE FATEFUL MEETING WITH THE VAMPIRES. THE BLACKSMITH WAS INDEED PLEASED WHEN HE READ HIS INVITATION TO DINNER WITH THE BARON TO DISCUSS CONSTRUCTION OF A SPECIAL COACH..."

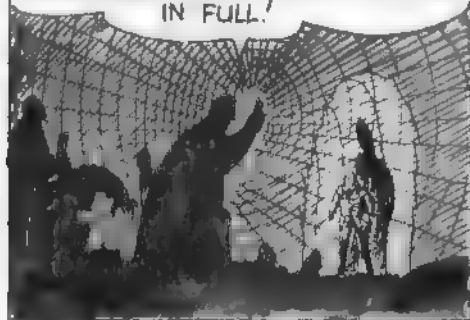


THIS IS A GREAT DAY FOR ME, BARON! ONCE THE WORD GETS AROUND THAT I AM BUILDING A COACH FOR BARON VON RENFIELD, MY SHOP WILL BE FLOODED WITH NEW CUSTOMERS!



"THE BRAWNY BLACKSMITH PUT UP A GREATER STRUGGLE THAN THE OTHERS... BUT HIS EFFORTS WERE WASTED. WHEN THE VAMPIRES HAD FINISHED THEIR BLOOD FEAST..."

ONE MORE, BARON VON RENFIELD... AND YOUR DEBT WILL BE PAID IN FULL!



"THE NEXT FEW DAYS WERE SLEEPLESS EONS FOR BARON VON RENFIELD..."

WHAT AM I TO DO? WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THREE PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH MY CHATEAU, I HAVE NO CHANCE OF LURING ANYONE ELSE. BUT I MUST! THE VAMPIRES ARE GROWING IMPATIENT!



"AND THEN CAME THE KNOCK..."

WHO IS THERE?



WHEN HE OPENED THE DOOR, HIS BLOOD FROZE AS HE LOOKED UPON THE THIRST-CRAZED FACES... SPITTLE RUNNING DOWN FROM THEIR LIPS... THEIR FANGS SPARKLING IN THE MOONLIGHT..

YOUR INVITATION...



HUGO! BORIS... GOOD LORD... YOU TOO ARE VAMPIRES!



DR. CABORE FELT A CHILL RUN THROUGH HIS BODY AS HE STOOD FASCINATED... LISTENING TO OLD MAN'S TALE...

THAT, MY YOUNG FRIEND, IS THE LEGEND BEHIND THIS ONCE MAGNIFICENT CHATEAU...

BUT YOU LEFT OUT THE ENDING... WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BARON?

CAN'T YOU GUESS? I AM BARON VON RENFIELD!

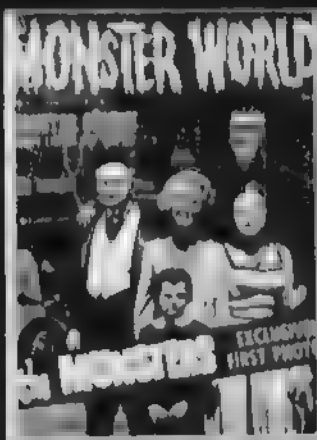
EVEN AS THE OLD MAN SPOKE, HIS SINISTER COMRADES EMERGED SILENTLY FROM THE INKY SHADOWS... QUIVERING, WITH ANTICIPATION, AS THEY CLOSED IN ON THEIR NEWLY ARRIVED GUEST...

I FOUND THAT INVITATIONS WERE VERY EFFECTIVE IN OBTAINING NEW GUESTS FOR MY FRIENDS AND MYSELF! **WE ARE SO HAPPY YOU COULD COME!!**

FEEL LEFT OUT, FIENDIES? THE BARON HAS PLENTY OF LEFT-OVER INVITATIONS... JUST CHECK YOUR MAIL BOX THEN GET READY TO CHECK OUT... **PERMANENTLY!**



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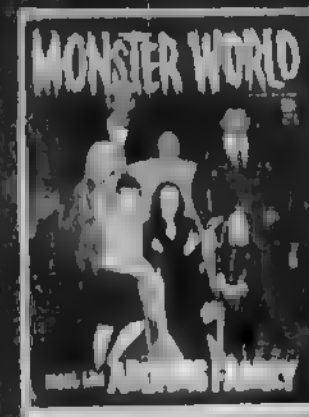
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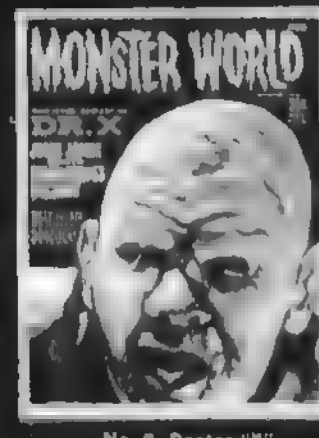
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ALL ABOUT A VAMPIRE WHO GOES PRETTY FAR AFIELD FOR NEW VICTIMS...
ALL THE WAY TO ANOTHER PLANET! WHEN THE BLOOD OF EARTH GETS
SCARCE, OUR BOY HAS A TRY AT THE...

BLOOD of KRYLON!

NOT AGAIN, REMICK! FOR LORD'S
SAKE, MAKE AN END TO IT! KILL
ME AND BE DONE!

WHY, BARNES! YOU'VE
READ MY VERY
THOUGHTS...



ART BY GRAY M. ROW
SCRIPT BY ARCHIE GOODWIN



AAARGHH!

THE SCREAM DIED AWAY, AS DID BARNES MOMENTS LATER... LEAVING THE INTERIOR OF THE ROCKET SILENT EXCEPT FOR THE SLIGHT, EFFICIENT HUM OF ITS POWER UNITS...

HAD TO MAKE SURE YOU LASTED! AND SO YOU DID! THE SHIP HAS ENTERED SOLAR SYSTEM 301...

THERE! IT'S OVER! SORRY TO HAVE PROLONGED THINGS FOR SO LONG, BARNES, BUT YOU WERE THE LAST ONE ...

IN YOU GO! JUST LIKE THE OTHERS... CAN'T HAVE YOU RETURNING AS A VAMPIRE! I DON'T ENJOY COMPETITION!

FAREWELL, BARNES!

REMICK COULD NOT HELP BUT SMILE AS FROM DEEP WITHIN THE HEART OF THE ROCKET THE METALLIC VOICE OF THE COMPUTER CONTROL SYSTEM SPOKE ...

ENTERING ORBITAL RANGE OF PLANET KRYLON... ADJUST APPROACH - PROGRAMMER TO ESTABLISH OFFICIAL ENTRY COURSE...

NO, YOU MECHANICAL BRAIN! I'LL SELECT MY OWN COURSE! MY ARRIVAL'S TO BE A SURPRISE! AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS! THIS IS WHAT I LEFT EARTH FOR..

EARTH WAS NO LONGER A PLACE FOR VAMPIRES... ITS SURFACE WAS A MASS OF INTERLOCKING CITIES WHERE RESIDENTS COULD DWELL IN WELL-PROTECTED SECURITY...

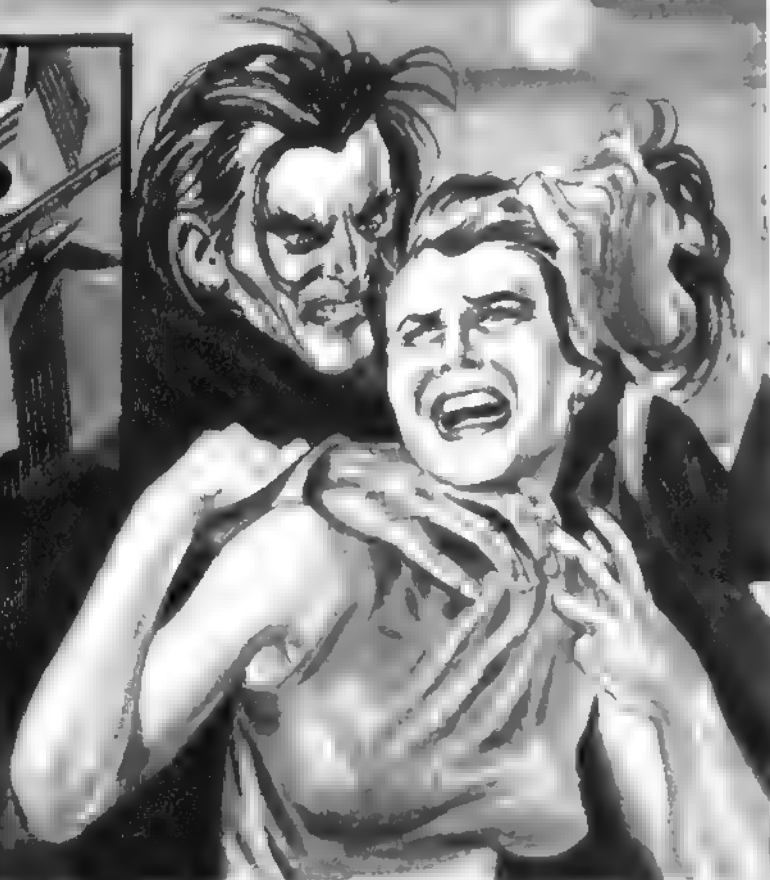


LAW ENFORCEMENT WAS HIDEOUSLY EFFICIENT, MOVING QUICKLY INTO NEVER-CEASING PURSUIT...

THE TRACKING ROBOTS HAVE FOUND HIS HIDING SPOT! HE'LL HAVE NO PLACE TO RETURN THIS MORNING!



AND EVEN SHOULD A VICTIM APPEAR BY CHANCE



EARTH'S BECOME OVER-MECHANIZED! MORE THAN I CAN TAKE! SIGNED UP FOR THE COLONIZATION PROGRAM... SOLAR SYSTEM 301! THAT'S WHERE THEY'RE SENDING ME... PLANET KRYLON!



ATMOSPHERE AND CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO EARTH'S... BUT UNSPOILED! COLONIES OF PEOPLE PITTING THEMSELVES AGAINST NATURE! THAT'S REAL LIFE! PAPERS ARE SIGNED... ROCKETS LEAVING TONIGHT!

A NEW SOURCE... UNSPOILED!



REMICK'S SITUATION WAS DESPERATE... HE ACTED WITHOUT HESITATION!



KRYLON, EH? NEARLY A YEAR'S TRIP AHEAD OF YOU... THINK THOSE COLONIES ARE WORTH ALL THAT?

I BELIEVE THEY HOLD A GREAT FUTURE FOR ME!



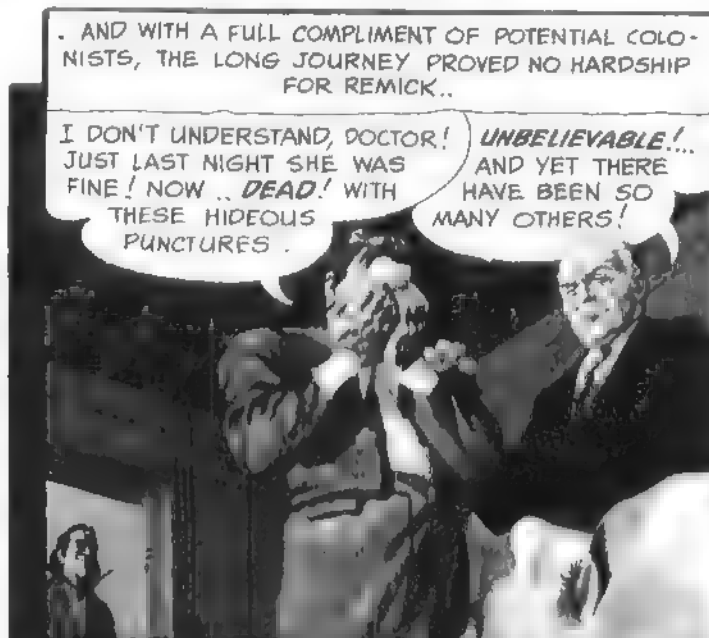
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS, REMICK COMPLETELY RELAXED AS THE DEPARTURE ROCKETS THUNDERED, SENDING HIM AND HIS NEVER-ENDING THIRST TOWARD THE UNTAPPED THROATS OF KRYLON!



AND WITH A FULL COMPLIMENT OF POTENTIAL COLONISTS, THE LONG JOURNEY PROVED NO HARDSHIP FOR REMICK..

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR! JUST LAST NIGHT SHE WAS FINE! NOW.. **DEAD!** WITH THESE HIDEOUS PUNCTURES.

UNBELIEVABLE!... AND YET THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY OTHERS!



IN FACT, LIFE ABOARD THE SPACE-CRAFT PRESENTED AN INTRIGUING REVELATION!

PERFECT! WHAT COULD BE BETTER THAN OUTER-SPACE? AN ETERNAL NIGHT. PERPETUAL BLACKNESS! UNBOUNDED BY DAWN'S DESTROYING SUNLIGHT! **PERFECT!**



BUT IF THE NIGHT OF SPACE WAS WITHOUT LIMIT, THE SUPPLY OF VICTIMS WAS NOT!

KRYLON! WITH BARNES FINALLY GONE, I NEED YOUR WARM BLOODED COLONISTS NOW MORE THAN EVER! AND HAVE THEM I SHALL!

I'LL PUT IN ON THE DARK SIDE... IT'LL LEAVE ME THE ENTIRE NIGHT TO SEARCH OUT PREY!

BRACING ROCKETS FLAMING, REMICK BROUGHT THE SHIP DOWN INTO A WILDERNESS AREA SHROUDED IN KRYLON'S NIGHT..

NO SIGN OF CIVILIZATION FOR MILES... THEY'LL NEVER BE AWARE THE ROCKET LANDED! MAKES A LONG FLIGHT TO THE COLONY, BUT THE NIGHT IS YOUNG!

BLOODLUST POUNDING IN HIS BRAIN, REMICK RACED OFF FOR FULLFILLMENT ON LEATHERY BAT WINGS

AND THE LONG FLIGHT DID NOT GO UNREWARDED...

NOW... NOW! AT LAST!

WAIT!... WHAT?... NO! IT CAN'T BE! NOT THE..

...SUN! HOW? FLYING DIDN'T TAKE THAT LONG... I HAD ALL NIGHT! **HOW?!!**

YOU FORGOT... THIS ISN'T EARTH!

KRYLON IS JUST LIKE EARTH EXCEPT FOR ONE THING. WHICH COLONISTS ADJUST TO, BUT WHICH WOULD BE HARD FOR VAMPIRES! THIS PLANET ROTATES MUCH FASTER! **NIGHT ONLY LASTS FOUR HOURS!**

AND IF REMICK THINKS THAT'S BAD, HE OUGHT TO BE GLAD HE DIDN'T DRINK THE WATER! AT LEAST HE FOUND TRAVEL VERY ENLIGHTENING... WHEN IT FINALLY DAWNED ON HIM!

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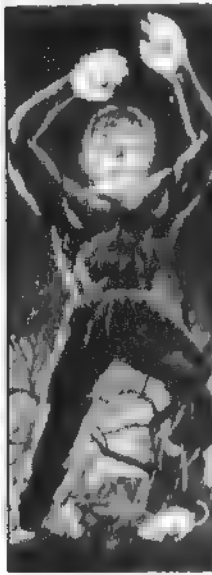
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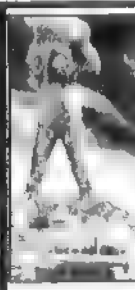


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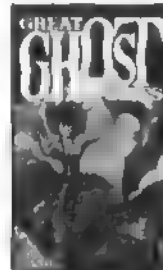
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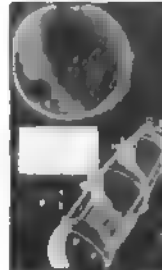
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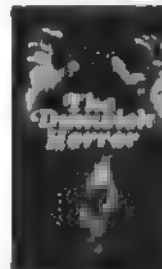
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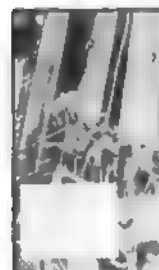
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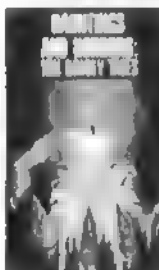
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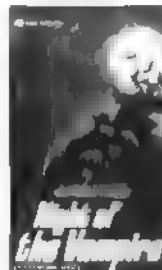
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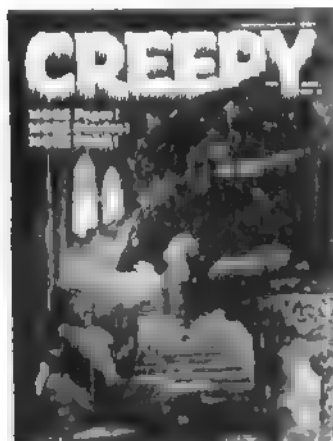
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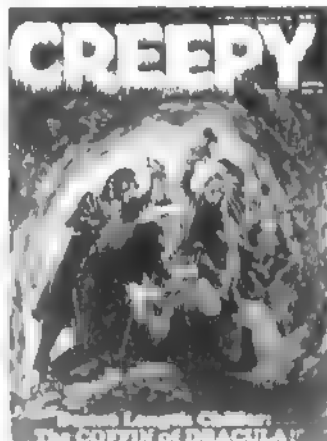
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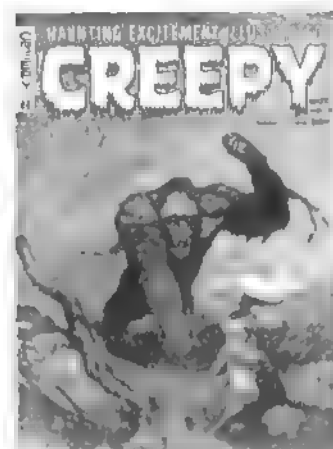
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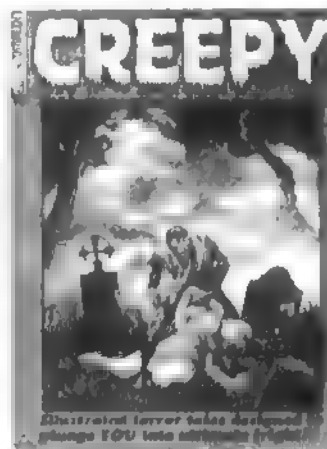
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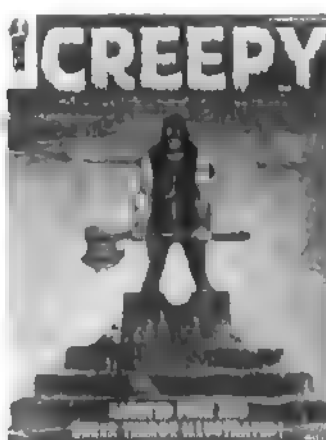
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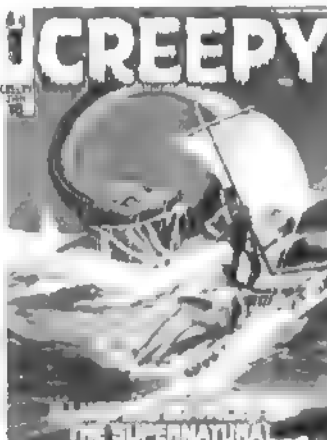
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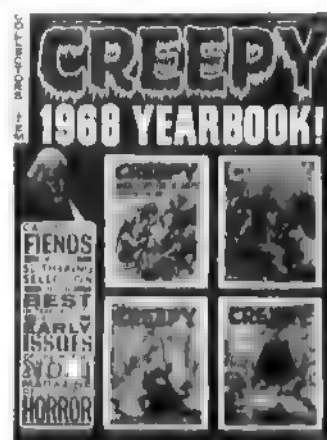
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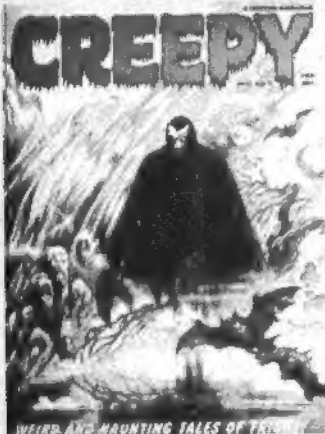
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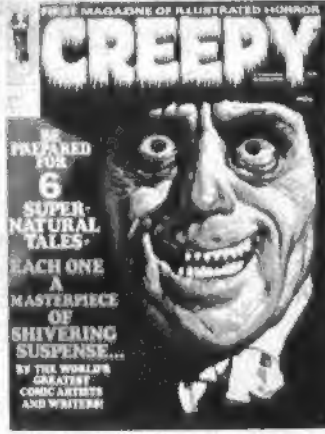
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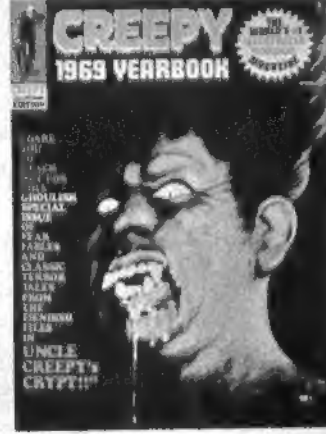
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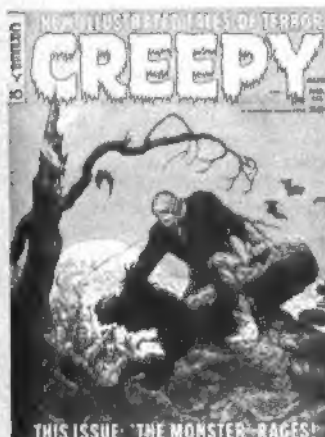
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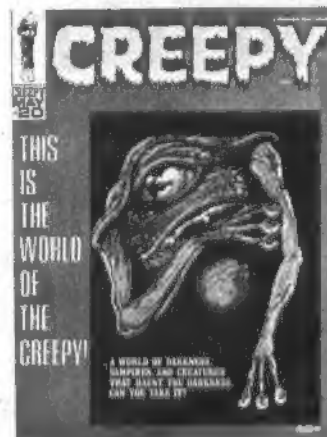
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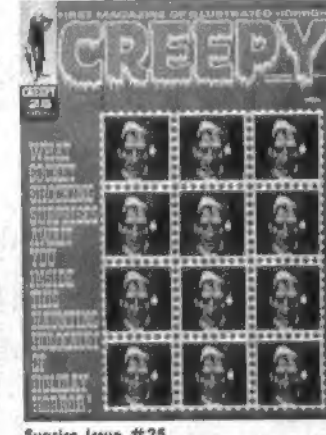
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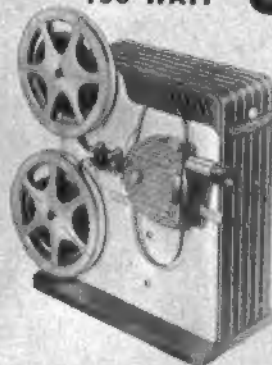
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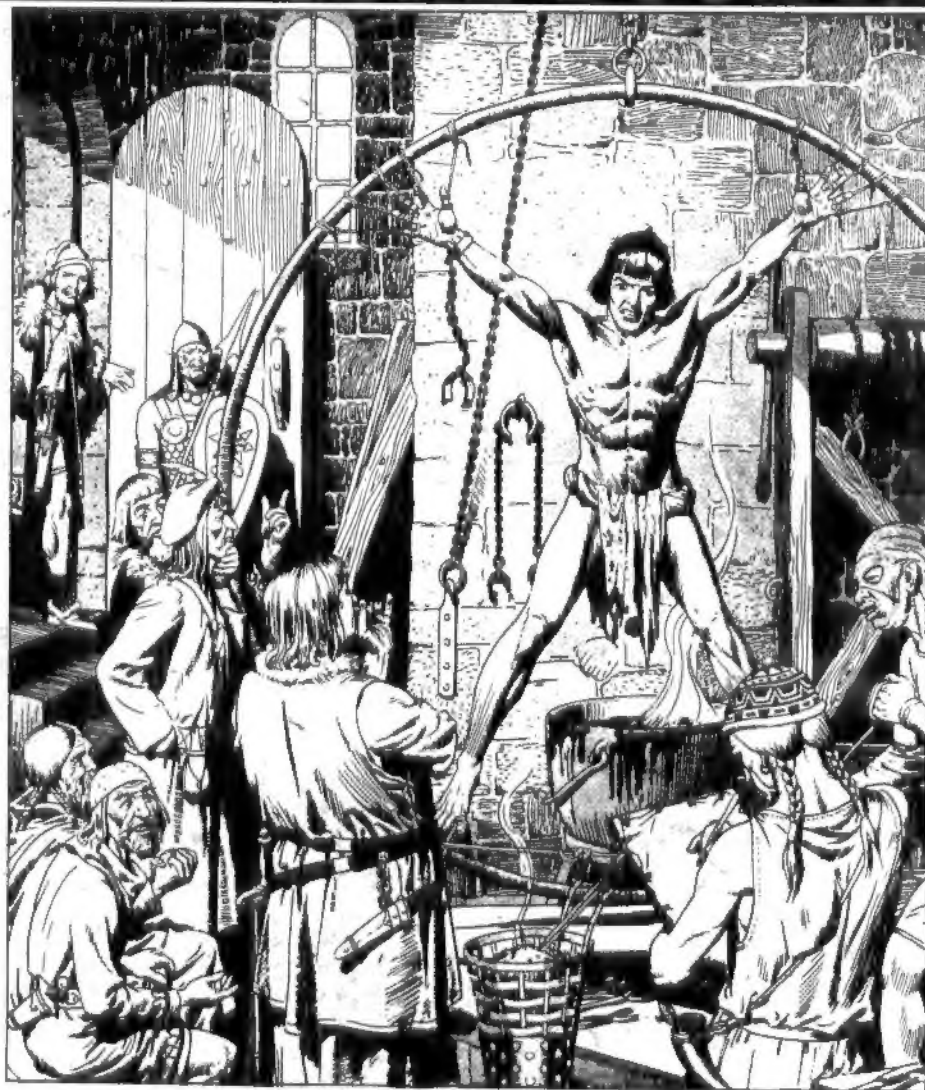
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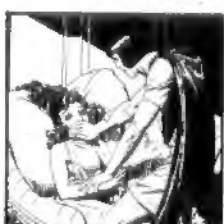
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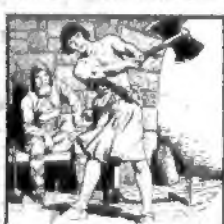
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